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Beijing Warns the U.S. On Taiwan Intervention

Island 'Is Not A Protectorate' Of Washington

By Steve Mufson
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — China's foreign minister warned the United States on Monday against intervening in China's escalating dispute with Taiwan and blamed Taiwan's leaders for heightened tension in the area.

"It is ridiculous for some people to call openly for interference by the Seventh Fleet or even for protecting Taiwan," Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said.

Southeast Asian countries strive to maintain their neutrality. Page 6.

said at a press conference where he frequently referred to prepared statements. "These people must have forgotten that Taiwan is a part of China and not a protectorate of the United States."

Mr. Qian issued his message as the Clinton administration said it was sending extra warships, including a second aircraft carrier, to the region in response to intimidating military exercises China is carrying out this week off the coast of Taiwan.

On Friday, China fired four unguided M-9 missiles in waters near Taiwan's two biggest ports, and on Tuesday it was to begin a round of naval and air force exercises in a zone that stretches halfway across the Taiwan Strait, further obstructing shipping and air traffic.

Taiwan's main stock index on Monday lost 98.08 points, or 2.7 percent, as investors digested news about the military maneuvers and the sell-off last week on Wall Street. Banks reported a continued heavy demand for U.S. dollars.

U.S. officials have become increasingly anxious that the Chinese exercises could accidentally trigger a confrontation or that Chinese leaders might underestimate American resolve and change to seize one of the remote Taiwanese islands close to the Chinese coast.

"The deployment of military assets

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Second Carrier Is Sent by U.S. As 'Precaution'

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — As the Chinese military launched increasingly robust exercises near Taiwan, U.S. officials confirmed Monday that a second aircraft carrier group would be sent to the area as a "precautionary measure."

Defense Secretary William J. Perry said that a task force led by the nuclear-powered carrier Nimitz would leave the Gulf this week to join the carrier Independence in waters near Taiwan.

"We do not believe China plans to attack Taiwan," Mr. Perry said during a visit to Santiago, Chile. "Nevertheless, we are increasing our naval presence in that region as a prudent, precautionary measure."

Despite Mr. Perry's insistence that the naval movements toward Taiwan were merely a precaution, the two carrier groups will form one of the largest concentrations of force in the region since the Vietnam War.

In Washington, Republicans and Democrats backed President Bill Clinton's response to the crisis.

"I support sending a strong signal to China," said Senator Bob Dole, while campaigning in Florida ahead of that state's primary election on Tuesday. "In a sense, they may be testing the president."

While taking a swipe at Mr. Clinton's "back and forth, yo-yo foreign policy," Mr. Dole said of China in an interview with Reuters: "They also have to understand if they start messing with Taiwan, they're going to strain our relationship, and set back China entering the modern world for years and years."

The Democratic leader in the Senate, Thomas A. Daschle of South Dakota, said that attempts by China to intimidate Taiwan "could undermine U.S.-Chinese relations in a very severe manner."

He said that when China requested renewal from Congress of its most

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Mr. Qian meeting with reporters on Monday. He said that calls for the protection of Taiwan were "ridiculous."

Corporate Giants Vie for Internet

The Scramble for Allies Is On as Netscape Battles Microsoft-Intel

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SAN FRANCISCO — Microsoft Corp. unleashed an Internet offensive on Monday, saying it would make computer-based communications "as commonplace" as telephone calls, but the rival Netscape Corp. struck back with deals to raise the profile of its current browsing programs.

Microsoft and the chipmaker Intel Corp. said they would develop ways to allow computer users to share images, sounds and data, no matter what kind of hardware they have. The companies, whose programs and microprocessors together dominate the personal-computer industry, said they had the backing of more than 100 technology companies.

Separately, Microsoft announced

alliances with telecommunications companies to provide high-speed Internet links for users of its Windows 95 operating system. The deals will allow people to use high-speed ISDN telephone lines to access the Internet. The Integrated Services Digital Network phone lines are about five times as fast as conventional services.

Microsoft has been battling for control of the Internet with Netscape, whose Navigator browsing program is the most popular way of viewing content on the Internet. Netscape signed a deal Monday with America Online Inc., the largest on-line service, to make its software available to 5 million AOL users. That followed a similar agreement on Friday with CompuServe Inc., with 4.5 million subscribers.

Investors seemed to like the Netscape announcement better, and they drove its stock up \$6.25, to \$46.25. Microsoft also rose, but it finished up just \$1.375, at \$96.50. Both stocks traded on the Nasdaq system.

Netscape's Navigator browsers are used by about 20 million people. Microsoft's Internet Explorer, by contrast, is used by about 6.3 million of the 19 million people who have purchased Windows 95.

Because Netscape, which has given away many copies of Navigator, controls the browser market, many sites on the multimedia section of the Internet called the World Wide Web are best viewed with its program. This

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Assad Will Skip Summit On Saving Peace Process

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — President Hosni Mubarak, co-chairman of an international meeting to rescue the Middle East peace process, said Monday that the Syrian leader, Hafez Assad, would boycott the meeting.

"He has his own views," Mr. Mubarak said of the Syrian president, adding, "I am sure that he is not coming."

Speaking briefly with reporters on his arrival at the conference site at this Red Sea resort, Mr. Mubarak did not say whether Mr. Assad would send a representative to the talks. But diplomatic sources in Cairo said they doubted that Syria would attend the meeting at any level.

National leaders will gather in Sharm el-Sheikh on Wednesday for a one-day meeting aimed at putting the Middle East peace process back on track after it was derailed by Palestinian suicide bombers, who killed 58 Israelis in four attacks this month.

"I hope we will have specific conclusions, otherwise the peace process will reach a deadlock and we are going to reach a hell of a problem," Mr. Mubarak warned.

But analysts said the absence of Syria, a regional power embroiled in five years of peace negotiations with the

Jewish state, and of its close political ally Lebanon, which announced earlier that it would boycott the meeting, would undermine the importance of the summit conference.

Both Syrian and Lebanon agree that the peace process is in shambles, but they say the best way to salvage it would be to reconvene the 1991 Madrid peace conference. Israel suspended peace talks with Syria following the attacks.

Syria still plays host to 10 radical Muslim groups, including Hamas, which waged the latest wave of attacks on Israel and has resisted calls from the United States and Israel to curb its violent activities.

Mr. Assad has ignored the summit meeting, although Syrian newspapers lambasted it Monday.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel welcomed the summit meeting on Monday as having "first-rate importance."

Some Israeli newspapers and analysts were skeptical, however, and Mr. Peres's chief political rival, Benjamin Netanyahu, said the meeting must give Israel carte blanche against Muslim militants and pressure the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, to stop "sheltering terrorists."

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An Israeli soldier glancing at a blindfolded man who was arrested in a raid on suspected Hamas members in the West Bank on Monday. The UN, meanwhile, said food was running short in the Gaza Strip. Page 6.

Their Rituals Dying Out, Thais Confront New Age

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

NAMPHEUN, Thailand — Like his father and his grandfather before him, Kasem Wayamo set the world aside recently to enter the Buddhist monkhood in a coming-of-age ritual that

lies at the heart of Thai tradition. He may be the last in his family to do so.

His gaudy procession by the side of a major highway, with fringed umbrellas and clashing cymbals, was an incongruous and increasingly rare sight as this country hurtles toward the 21st century.

And his abbreviated two-week stint of fasting and meditation — his father spent four months as a monk — was a concession to the fast pace of modern Thailand and the impatience of his employers at a factory where he works as an electrician.

"It is a dying tradition," said Temsiri Panyasingh, a lecturer on cultural affairs. "We have had our own culture for thousands of years. But right now we are taking the culture of the Western countries, and in my opinion that is not good."

As one of the world's most rapidly developing countries, Thailand often seems to have only one thing in mind

these days — modernization — as centuries-old traditions are buried by highways, traffic and bustle.

As in other fast-changing countries in the region, a fundamental question is emerging: What does it mean to be Thai?

Though the quick answer sometimes takes an anti-Western tinge, as in Malaysia and Singapore, students of the society say that what is happening is more fundamental and complex than surface Westernization.

In the helter-skelter of the streets of Bangkok, there seems little place for values that were once considered the heart of a culture: subservience to parents, respect for authority, a keen sense of one's proper place in society, a delicate politeness and avoidance of conflict, an inner stillness.

The scent of jasmine is overwhelmed by what the writer Sujit Wongthet called "the stink of lust and gasoline."

And now one of the nation's core institutions — the priesthood — is com-

ing under pressure in this country where 95 percent of the people are Buddhist.

A number of scandals in recent years have quickened a decline in the public's veneration for the monks and monasteries, which are so much a part of Thai life.

Monks have been accused of accumulating vast wealth through scams, embezzlement and self-promotion. Reports of sex scandals within the supposedly celibate monkhood have become common.

Most recently, the monkhood has gained notoriety as a hideout for criminals on the run, and several lurid rapes and murders have seized the headlines. "Crooks in yellow robes," Sukak Sivarak, a leading social critic, called these malefactors the other day.

He said monks all too often arrive in chauffeured luxury cars to accept alms. Criticism has come from within the priesthood as well.

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Wall Street Manages A Buoyant Rebound

Small Investors Sit Tight as Big Buyers Hunt for Bargains

By Lawrence Malkin
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — The stock market bounced back Monday and began clawing back its Friday losses as small investors decided to ride out the storm and big ones started looking for bargains.

After dropping 3 percent Friday on fears that rising interest rates would make stocks less attractive, the Dow Jones industrial average opened lower Monday morning as specialists marked down prices defensively, expecting yet another drop of 7 percent or 8 percent. But it did not happen.

The Dow quickly moved into positive territory and closed 110.55 points higher at 5,581.00. It even had to be restrained for an hour or so by trading curbs as the market turned a shade bullish early in the afternoon.

On the New York Stock Exchange, gains outnumbered losses by a margin of 8 to 5, and all major stock indexes rose except the Dow Jones index, with that sector still nervous about interest rates. The Nasdaq composite index was strengthened by orders for technology stocks.

A combination of factors underpinned the market. Buying orders came in from big fund managers. Small savers sat on their mutual funds instead of liquidating them for cash or bonds despite better yields than they could have earned last week. Fidelity Investments, the largest U.S. fund manager with almost 45 percent of its assets in individual retirement funds, reported "no unusual activity" since Friday.

Most important, the bond market signaled it may have overreacted to a government report last Friday of 705,000 new jobs. Prices perked up, indicating that yields may have peaked when the 30-year Treasury bond retreated from a recent high of 6.77 percent to close Monday at 6.63 percent. Donald Straszheim, chief economist of Merrill Lynch, said current levels simply could not last because bonds paying nearly 6.70 percent and inflation of only 2.75 percent "don't go together."

The big Wall Street houses sent out cautious but hardly bearish signals to their customers. Smith Barney advised clients to reduce stocks from 60 to 55 percent of their portfolios, parking the 5 percent in cash. Merrill Lynch forecast continued sluggishness in the economy, advising customers to go for growth companies and avoid cyclical stocks that traditionally bounce back when a boom unleashes consumer demand.

David Shulman of Salomon Brothers, a traditional bear, maintained his 50-40-10 allocation among stocks, bonds, and cash, and forecast that the huge inflow of money into mutual funds would limit any market drop this year to a total of 10 percent. Bull markets traditionally are driven by greed, but he argued that this one is driven by "the fear of having inadequate resources in retirement."

Exactly how long the flow into mutual funds will continue is the single

See MARKETS, Page 6

Dow Jones	Trib Index
Up 86.70	Down 0.69%
5557.15	131.54
The Dollar	
New York	Min 3.30 previous close
DM	1.4817 1.4865
Pound	1.524 1.522
Yen	105.45 105.775
FF	5.0728 5.09

AGENDA

Gingrich Weighs In Again for Dole

ATLANTA (AP) — Newt Gingrich, the House speaker, warned Patrick J. Buchanan and Steve Forbes on Monday that they will have less influence on the Republican platform the longer they stay in the race for their party's presidential nomination.

"The fact is, this is now a Bob Dole team, and Bob Dole has won the nomination for all practical purposes," Mr. Gingrich said before speaking to a meeting of real estate agents and bankers here.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Forbes and Mr. Buchanan vowed to continue campaigning, despite their diminishing prospects for winning the nomination. Primaries will be held on "Super Tuesday" in Texas, Florida, Oklahoma, Oregon, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee.

"The longer Pat campaigns, the less effect he's going to have," Mr. Gingrich said. "He's made his point. People understand his message. Now it's time to be part of the team."

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Clinton and Dole, Do They Differ?

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EUROPE
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THE AMERICAS

Clinton vs. Dole: Are They Really So Different?

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Nearly three years ago, President Bill Clinton and Senator Bob Dole and their wives broke bread at a festive, bipartisan dinner at Duke Zeltzer's, a favorite restaurant of the powerful that was five blocks from the White House.

"I thought they ought to know each other better in a social setting," said Robert Strauss, a confidant of Democratic and Republican presidents who arranged the dinner for his two friends. "They got along fine. And they've each been able to maintain a civility in their contact."

Their cautious but respectful relationship may soon change forever now that the two are all but certain to face off in November.

Mr. Clinton is determined to march undeterred to a second term, while Mr. Dole is just as determined to triumph in his third, and probably last, try for the White House.

Yet what is most striking about the youthful president, who is known as a smooth chatter, and the older majority leader, who is known for his biting wit, is that they seem to have as many similarities as differences.

For all the oratory during the Republican primaries about replacing Mr. Clinton with a devoted conservative, Mr. Dole and the president both have reputations as split-the-difference Washington insiders.

They both come from humble small-town backgrounds, are creatures of government and believe that the federal government has a vital, if overstated, role.

Mr. Dole's idea of a night off is to go to a Republican fund-raiser. Mr. Clinton's idea of a night off is to go to Renaissance Weekend and talk politics and policy.

"For two people who appear to be so different — from style to age to background to records — it's amazing how much they have in common," said Mr. Strauss, a former Democratic Party chairman who socializes with Mr. Dole at their condominium complex in Bal Harbor, Florida, but who supports Mr. Clinton.

Indeed, Americans perceive both men as moderates who agree on a host of critical issues. Forty-three percent of Mr. Clinton's supporters say he is a moderate, while the

same percentage of Mr. Dole's supporters say he is a moderate, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll of 994 registered voters nationwide.

It is only when looked on by all voters that each man is seen in the extreme: 47 percent of all registered voters say Mr. Clinton is more liberal than moderate, and 47 percent say Mr. Dole is more conservative than moderate.

For every difference between the two, there seems to be a similarity. The Times/CBS poll, which was taken in late February and which had a sampling error of three percentage points, found that the supporters of both men agree with their like-minded positions that U.S. immigration laws should welcome newcomers and that prayer should be permitted in school but the Constitution should not be changed for that purpose.

But on other issues, from abortion to the size of government to whether to strengthen environmental regulations, the two men and their followers are far apart. Yet it can be difficult to know just how fundamentally different Mr. Dole and Mr. Clinton are because they both tend to compromise.

Campaign aides to both men said their goals in the coming days and months would be

to sharpen differences that do exist, and to portray the opponent as far more extreme.

Mr. Dole's strategists said they will draw a contrast with Mr. Clinton's failure to serve in the military and the character questions that have swirled around his presidency by emphasizing the senator's service in World War II and his experience as a leader. And they said they would portray Mr. Clinton as a big-spending liberal.

"Mr. Clinton will debate better and he'll campaign better — that's without question," said Robert E. Lighthizer, a Washington lawyer who is a close Dole adviser. But ultimately, Mr. Lighthizer said, Mr. Dole's best asset is Mr. Clinton's weakness: "This election is going to be Mr. Clinton versus Not Mr. Clinton. People are going to find Mr. Dole more credible, more sympathetic, more in common with them."

By contrast, Clinton advisers will present the choice as generational — Mr. Dole turns 73 on July 22; Mr. Clinton turns 50 on Aug. 19 — and depict the senator as lacking the vitality to be president. They will also label him as an extremist who is in the pocket of religious conservatives and is eager to slash programs important to the middle class.

Dole Appeals to 'Super Tuesday' Candidates for Unity

The Associated Press

DANIA, Fla. — With one eye already turned toward a fall showdown with President Bill Clinton, Senator Bob Dole on Monday urged Steve Forbes and Patrick J. Buchanan to rethink their presidential candidacies if they are poor in the "Super Tuesday" primaries.

Fielding questions from reporters in Florida, Mr. Dole, the Republican front-runner, said he expected a big day Tuesday, when Texas, Flor-

ida and five other states divide up 362 convention delegates. Mr. Dole leads everywhere and could end the day well past the halfway mark in the nomination chase.

"Then I would hope we can come together as a party and as a team," Mr. Dole said. "What I want to do is bring the party together and beat Bill Clinton."

Mr. Dole said he had not spoken to either rival about their quitting, but added that

if he has another big primary day, "obviously, we will be looking for signals that might indicate a willingness to come aboard."

In the interest of unity, Mr. Dole passed up several opportunities to fight with Mr. Buchanan, who has been scathingly critical of the Kansas senator.

Mr. Dole said he had not given a moment's thought to what role Mr. Buchanan might play at the Republican Convention in August, al-

though he did say Mr. Buchanan's leverage depended on how many delegates he amassed. And Mr. Dole declined to comment on Mr. Buchanan's warning that anti-abortion voters would bolt the party if Mr. Dole selected Colin Powell or someone else who supports abortion rights as his running mate.

Mr. Dole said he had not begun to think about running mates. As Mr. Dole headed from Florida to Texas, Mr. Buchanan acknowledged that he had few hopes of surprising the front-runner on Tuesday.

"We may have a rough day Tuesday," he said. But he added that he was not about to quit.

"We're going forward because I represent a cause and the people who are behind me want me to represent that cause in the Republican convention," Mr. Buchanan said Monday morning. "We're going to San Diego to do

battle for the things we believe in."

Mr. Forbes was not offering any predictions about Tuesday, but promised to stay in the race whatever the results. His top worry was trying to calm internal campaign turmoil caused by Jack Kemp, the former housing secretary, who endorsed Mr. Forbes last week but began talking Sunday of brokering a deal with Mr. Dole that would get Mr. Forbes out of the race.

Suggesting that Mr. Forbes might not be in the race much longer, Mr. Kemp said Sunday that "I have a lot of friends in the Dole camp and maybe, if he asked me, at the right time, to help build a bridge to the party or to Dole, I could play that role."

Mr. Forbes on Monday repudiated Mr. Kemp's offer, saying his remarks were "totally out of bounds." Mr. Forbes added that "anyone who makes any remarks" is not speaking "with my authority and is hereby totally, 100 percent repudiated."

Candidates Hurl Themselves Into Cyberspace

There Is Politics Aplenty at Hundreds of Way Stations Across the World Wide Web

By Brad Spurgeon
International Herald Tribune

The presidential campaign has invaded the Internet, where everything a politician has to offer can be downloaded, forwarded, listened to, seen and commented on.

Among the nearly 100 easily identifiable sites on the World Wide Web dishing out election news and views, it is hard to find one not in some way advertising its favorite candidate, party or brand of politics.

Each site has enough material to convey the candi-

date's views on the issues, and at the same time portray the candidate's message in his own Internet way.

Senator Bob Dole's way is technically and visually arresting, while Patrick J. Buchanan's is conservative, in content and appearance. The White House site is not an official Net site for Pres-

ident Bill Clinton, since it is financed by the taxpayers, but it does get a message across.

There are two basic routes to surfing the elections. The first is to "point" a Web browser software at a candidate or party address, by typing in the site address.

Many of the sites will present connections to related sites, and you can swim through the links to your heart's content. But because the Web is made up of millions of sites, a user might get carried off by the surf.

A safer method of navigating the political sites might be to go directly to a site that features a compiled list of political sites. Point Politics, for instance, offers direct links to more than 200 other political sites.

At such a site, a user can simply click a mouse on the name of the particular site and be linked directly, saving the user from having to type in the multiword address known as a URL. Lists such as Point Politics also provide a description and a rating of the political site in question.

General all-purpose presidential election sites, such as ElectionLine are a little like magazines devoted to the election. They may also be used as launching boards to

finding further information, and many of them offer articles from newspapers and magazines.

Daring users can call up a powerful Web-wide search engine like AltaVista and type in a search term like "presidential elections," and see how many sites come up.

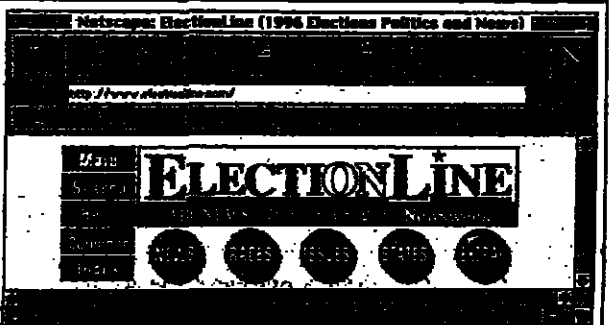
Unless equipped with the very fastest of modems, users probably will want to pass on transcripts of televised comments, debates or speeches that take longer to download than to read. The same holds for video clips that take longer to download than to view.

Man With a Gun Followed Buchanan

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — A man who followed a motorcade carrying Patrick J. Buchanan, ignoring police who tried to wave him off, was arrested after officers found a shotgun in his car, the police said.

Nickolas Owens, 34, was arrested on charges of unlawfully carrying a weapon. A can of gasoline and other, undisclosed items were found in the trunk of his car, the police said.



The U.S. Election On-Line

Web sites listed should carry the prefix command http://

Republcons
Bob Dole: www.dole96.com
Pat Buchanan: www.buchanan.org
Steve Forbes: www.forbes96.com
Alan Keyes: alan_keyes_96.gcoinc.com
Republican National Committee: www.rnc.org

Democrats
Bill Clinton: www.whitehouse.gov
Another Clinton site: www.suznet.com/yes
Hillary Rodham Clinton: www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Office/First_Lady/hillary/home.html
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Others
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General all-purpose presidential election sites
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Campaign '96 Online: campaign96.com
Showdown '96: www.showdown96.com/pol/gov/index.html
Netizen: www.netizen.com/netizen (Sponsored by Wired magazine)

Away From Politics

• The Civil War battlefield Brandy Station may be the loser in a battle between the Civil War Trust and the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites over the property in Culpeper County, Virginia. The two groups are in a tag-of-war over how to use the \$6 million in proceeds from the sale of commemorative Civil War coins. The association wants some of the money spent right away on Brandy Station; the trust, which by congressional mandate controls the coin money, is studying the request but has reservations about the Brandy Station deal. (WP)

• Time is running out for a project to build the first monument on Washington's Mall honoring the 5,000 black soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. For 10 years, the Black Patriots Foundation has tried to raise \$6.5 million to build the memorial but still needs \$5 million. The group is trying to beat an October deadline. That is when legislation approving the memorial's location expires. (NYT)

• The death of a motorcycle stunt rider may have been partly due to gusting wind. Bunch Laswell, 37, soaked over Las Vegas's 38-foot high Skywalk Bridge, but came down on the side of the ramp and slammed into the concrete. (AP)

• A 44-foot whale washed up on a Cape Cod beach last weekend apparently after being hit by a ship. It became the sixth endangered right whale found dead along Eastern shores since January. The right whale population is now about 300, though it once numbered in the tens of thousands. (AP)

• An Amtrak train derailed between Cresview and Pensacola, Florida. There were no injuries. (AP)

• An out-of-control Chinese satellite could fall out of orbit as early as Monday night, and there is a chance it could survive re-entry. The British military said the satellite would very likely fall into the sea. (AP)

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POLITICAL NOTES

Texans Stay Cool to Clinton

DALLAS — Emilia Walker, a seventh-grade teacher who lives in Dallas, knows what she likes about President Bill Clinton: Not much.

"I don't like him. I don't like his tactics and I don't like his politics," she said the other day at the Vista Ridge Mall in the Dallas suburb of Lewisville.

Patti Patterson of Fort Worth, who was waiting for her grandchild to be photographed with the Easter Bunny, was, if anything, even more vehement in her assessment. "I don't like anything Clinton stands for," she said.

"He's for abortion, and he endorsed homosexuality." Around the country, President Bill Clinton has bounced back from his lows of a year ago, but Texans remain resistant to his political charms. Texas voters never warmed to Mr. Clinton in the 1992 campaign, turned sharply against him early in his presidency and haven't changed their minds much since.

The breakdown of the Republican-controlled Congress and his own agility in co-opting Republican themes have pushed the president's national approval ratings up, and polls in many of the big, battleground states show him leading Senator Bob Dole, his likely challenger.

But two new polls released here last week reinforced the belief that Texas offers Mr. Clinton one of the more challenging political environments of any major state. The Texas Poll showed Mr. Dole leading Mr. Clinton 56 percent to 40 percent; a Mason-Dixon poll showed Mr. Dole ahead 53 to 38 percent.

Those numbers may overstate the depth of the president's problems, but even among voters who call themselves Democrats, Mr. Clinton appears weak here. About half of the Democrats surveyed in the Texas Poll said they would prefer another nominee to Mr. Clinton. (WP)

A Dole-Powell Ticket Pushed

NEW YORK — The co-chairman of Bob Dole's presidential campaign says he will urge the Republican senator to choose Colin Powell as his running mate if he becomes the Republican nominee.

Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato of New York said the retired army general "would make it a very formidable and winning ticket."

"Powell has the ability of drawing people from the independent column to the Republican ticket," Mr. D'Amato told the New York Post.

General Powell bowed out of the presidential race last year, but Mr. D'Amato said he believed he would reconsider if Mr. Dole were the nominee.

General Powell, former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was not available for comment, the Post said. Mr. D'Amato said the party would be better off choosing General Powell than Patrick J. Buchanan for its vice presidential candidate at the Republican National Convention in San Diego in August.

"The 1992 convention in Houston was a horror because of Buchanan," Mr. D'Amato said. "He's divisive and frightens people." (AP)

Quote/Unquote

Pat Buchanan, dismissing speculation that he would pull out of the race: "Senator Dole himself has said this is a battle for the heart and soul of the Republican Party. I've got an obligation to represent the people who are behind me." (AP)

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ASIA/PACIFIC

As Asia Watches, Ex-Chiefs In Seoul Defend a Massacre

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Two former South Korean presidents, on trial for their lives, defended their seizure of power in a courtroom drama Monday that has huge resonance in Asia.

Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, former generals who once ruled South Korea by absolute fiat, were light-blue prison uniforms as they went on trial together for staging a coup d'état in 1979 and then massacring anti-government protesters in 1980.

"We're as good as dead, so please try to look dignified," Mr. Chun reportedly had written to Mr. Roh. Both seemed calm and impassive as they stood at the dock.

In fact, they almost certainly will not be executed. The current speculation in Seoul is that Mr. Chun may initially be sentenced to death and Mr. Roh to life in prison, but that both sentences will be reduced to a fixed number of years in prison.

The most powerful of the charges is that they carried out a massacre of hundreds of protesters in Kwangju in May 1980.

Dictators from Thailand to Indonesia to China have also massacred protesters over the years, and the trial here raises the prospect that the spread of democracy could lead to similar trials in other countries. Some Chinese dissidents say that the principle of accountability for the Kwangju massacre may eventually be confirmed in a trial of Chinese leaders for the Tiananmen killings in 1989.

Mr. Chun, who led the 1979 coup and then ruled South Korea as president from 1980 until 1988, did not speak in court. However, Mr. Roh, who played a lesser role in the coup and was president from 1988 to 1993, was cross-examined briefly and offered a partial justification for the coup.

"I felt that confusion and insecurity were growing worse," Mr. Roh said.

The lawyer for Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh, Chon Sang Suk, offered a long defense of the former presidents. He emphasized that Mr. Chun's administration had been regarded as legitimate by foreign countries and by Koreans themselves.

"No foreign country severed diplomatic relations," Mr. Chon noted, and he added that if the country were to negate President Chun's administration then all civil service appointments should also be canceled. Mr. Chon also argued that the 1979 coup was legal, even though it took the form of Mr. Chun "arresting" the man who was then army chief of staff without getting the approval of the president at the time.

"There is no legal basis requiring pres-

idential approval for the arrest of an army chief of staff," Mr. Chon said. "It is just a customary practice."

Turning to the Kwangju massacre, Mr. Chon said that the two former presidents had needed to crack down on unrest in part because of fears that North Korea might seize the opportunity to invade.

"The government had to end the nationwide protests quickly," Mr. Chon said.

The biggest drama during the session came when a man in the courtroom gallery stood up and shouted, "You murderers, Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo! Are you some kind of stars? What's this handshaking, when you won't even show any repentance?"

The man turned out to be Kang Min Jo, the father of a student dissident who had been beaten to death by riot police in 1991, during Mr. Roh's presidency. After he began shouting, several supporters of Mr. Chun — reportedly including at least one of Mr. Chun's sons — scuffled with him, and Mr. Kang was led out of the courtroom by police.

Also on trial with the two former presidents are 14 former generals accused of having taken part in the massacre or the seizure of power, beginning with the coup and continuing with further actions in the spring of 1980 to wrest power from civilian leaders.

Separate trials for Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh on corruption charges have already begun. A verdict and sentence will eventually be handed down together by a panel of judges, for South Korea does not use juries.



TRAVEL IN MIND — Hong Kong residents lining up Monday to obtain new British passports before China takes over in 1997.

BRIEFLY ASIA

Okinawan Resists U.S. Leases

TOKYO — Saying his island has borne the crimes of U.S. servicemen for decades, Governor Masahide Ota of Okinawa pleaded with a court Monday not to force Okinawan landowners to sign new leases for American military bases.

The governor testified four days after three U.S. servicemen were convicted in the rape of an Okinawan schoolgirl. The rape touched off fierce opposition to the large U.S. military presence on Okinawa, and some landowners do not want to renew their leases to American bases.

Their cause has been adopted by Governor Ota, who has refused to use his authority to force landowners to lease their land. The Japanese government has sued Mr. Ota to make him change his position, and after Monday's testimony, Judge Ichiro Otsuka promised to deliver a ruling on March 25.

Lee Kuan Yew Faces Operation

SINGAPORE — Seven weeks after doctors widened a blocked blood vessel near his heart, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore will have to undergo the procedure again this week, the government announced Monday.

VOICES From Asia

President Kim Young Sam of South Korea: "We have always to be wary of the possibility that North Korea could choose an unexpected military adventure to avoid the crisis facing its regime." (Reuters)

Qian Qichen, Chinese foreign minister: "Those people have forgotten that Taiwan is a part of China and not a protectorate of the United States." (Reuters)

A Chinese Reformer?

Congress Chief's Motives Are Fuzzy

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — With the opening of the National People's Congress here last week, the veil has been lifted a bit more on the status of Qiao Shi, chairman of the Congress and one of China's most enigmatic politicians.

Mr. Qiao, a former chief of espionage in the Communist Party's secrets committee, has become the unlikely repository for the hopes of those Chinese who want to reform the country's political system.

Since becoming chairman of the traditionally rubber-stamp legislature four years ago, Mr. Qiao, 71, has been a voice for democratic procedure, the rule of law and greater power for the Congress, thereby reinforcing his image as a political rival of China's president, Jiang Zemin.

The Congress embarrased Mr. Jiang last year by registering the highest-ever levels of legislative dissent: 36 percent of the delegates refused to endorse Mr. Jiang's choice of deputy prime minister, and 33 percent withheld support for a new central bank law. In addition, in small meetings with top government ministers, the legislators vented their anger about economic policy and official corruption.

While many members of Mr. Jiang's circle fumed about the rebellious legislature, Mr. Qiao ended the 1995 session by hailing it as a "democratic, united, truth-seeking and pragmatic meeting imbued with exploratory spirit."

Still, Mr. Qiao's motives are unclear. Has he championed the legislature as a vehicle for his higher ambitions, or does he speak from conviction about checking the power of the ruling seven-man Communist Party Standing Committee, of which he is a member?

His career began more than a half-century ago, when as a 16-year-old student he secretly joined the Communist underground in Shanghai to fight the Japanese invaders and the rival Chinese Nationalists. It was then that he took the pseudonym Qiao Shi; his real name is Jiang Zhitong, son of a landlord family in Zhejiang Province. Although he helped organize the Communist student network, he also married a niece of the Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek.

After World War II, Mr. Qiao rose through the party bureaucracy, and in 1963 he was appointed to the International Liaison Department, the party's

espionage arm, later becoming its director. As head of the party's Central Organization Department in 1984 and 1985, he helped bring about a major internal housecleaning. As a member of the ruling Communist Politburo, he ran the party's school on doctrine and the Central Commission on Discipline Inspection.

In 1989, he was a candidate to succeed the Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang, who was removed following the Tiananmen Square democracy demonstrations, but it is widely be-

lieved he was lukewarm on the imposition of martial law at the time and thus was passed over.

Three years later, Mr. Qiao he was appointed head of the legislature, often a dead-end job for senior party officials on the verge of retirement. But many political analysts believe that Mr. Qiao is not yet ready to fade quietly from the scene.

Observers trying to identify a reformist streak in Mr. Qiao note that he has protected many reform advocates in the Congress, allowing them to draft innovative legislation.

Some analysts say that Mr. Qiao may be trying to develop the legislature as a vigorous institution.

Earlier this year, Mr. Qiao was conspicuously quiet while Mr. Jiang urged Chinese leaders to "talk politics," to put ideology above economics and to guard against foreign influences. By contrast, Mr. Qiao traveled last month to Guangdong Province and praised the area's economic initiatives and rapid opening to the rest of the world.

Yet those looking to the current two-week legislative session for clear clues to Mr. Qiao's leanings may have to read between the lines.

Some analysts believe that the reason it is difficult to identify reformist leanings in the workings of the Congress with Mr. Qiao's own politics is that he has no such leanings. "A lot of people think Qiao will fly the flag of reform," a lawyer said, "but he's always been part of the party apparatus."

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EUROPE

Support for IRA Wanes Among Belfast Catholics

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

BELFAST — The four Roman Catholic women from working-class areas of Belfast met on a recent afternoon for lunch in the Europa Hotel, which claims with bitter pride that as a target of the Irish Republican Army it is the most-bombed hotel in Europe.

The women, all in their 30s, noted with nervous laughs that the menu defiantly offered a BLAST sandwich, a kind of bacon-lettuce-and-tomato on soda bread. But that was one of the few light moments of the lunch.

The women, all of whom have friends or relatives who have backed the IRA or served prison terms for IRA activity, were discussing hope for the restoration of the 17-month cease-fire that ended a month ago with an IRA bomb that killed two people in London.

They emphasized that whatever sympathy they may have had for the IRA in the past, they now reject its claim that it represents the Catholics of Northern Ireland. Fearing reprisals, they spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"On the night the cease-fire ended, loads of people cried," one said.

Another said, "My son, 9 years old, went on his own — I didn't even know — and got the drop bars and put them up on the front door," adding that the heavy iron bars had been laid aside during the cease-fire.

Most houses in working-class Belfast have such protection. Some have steel grills blocking staircases to the bedrooms. The women noted that the government will subsidize protective devices for people known to be on Protestant paramilitary hit lists.

The women also said that since the cease-fire ended Feb. 9, they had been afraid to listen to the news, worried that they might hear that the violence had returned here as well. "I switch to tapes whenever the news comes on," the first woman said.

"The IRA is never going to get the support it once had among nationalists," said a third, referring to those who seek a united Ireland. "Even their own supporters have had a taste of peace."

The women said that during the cease-fire some IRA neighbors — men they used to watch through their windows stock cars with bombs and guns — took regular jobs. Some were on construction sites, where the IRA used to demand extortion payments in the form of paychecks for phantom workers.

The women credited the wives of some of the IRA

men with putting pressure on them to make the cease-fire hold. "I wouldn't stand by my husband if he was out murdering people," one woman said.

In another sign that IRA support was fading, the women said that a majority of Belfast Catholics probably now favored selective, preventive detention of known IRA guerrillas. When the British jailed more than 700 Catholics in the mid-1970s, a practice known as nonselective internment, the prisoners won international sympathy with hunger strikes.

"Selective internment would not get Catholics out in the streets to protest," one woman said.

The women noted that segregation and suspicion still divided the people: Catholics who marry Protestants and live in Protestant areas often get threatening phone calls or find graffiti on their houses.

They said they still get stares and nasty remarks when they venture into Protestant areas.

One of the women said the only hope was "mixed education — the two religions together." She said that she had told this to a bishop and a parish priest and had said that she wanted to send a younger son to a nondenominational school. "The bishop shook his head," she recalled, and replied that there are Catholic schools for Catholic children.

Nastase Comes Home

Bad Boy of Tennis Aims to Run Bucharest

By Jane Perlez
New York Times Service

BUCHAREST — Who would want to run a city where more than 100 homeless people froze to death on the streets this winter and there was no money to pay for the burials? Where rubbish piles tower over parked cars, and potholes have cratered into mini-canyons?

Ilie Nastase, the onetime bad boy of tennis who enjoys the good life in Paris and New York, is running for mayor of Bucharest. At 50, with a few extra pounds on his frame and rimless glasses for watching television, he says he is coming home to help.

"I love the States and France," said Mr. Nastase, looking a little incongruous in his headquarters as aides plotted a schedule for the novice candidate to meet and greet voters. "I took their money and their women, but I'll always be a Romanian. I took the best things out of there, and I want to bring them back here."

Here is the Romanian capital, Mr. Nastase's hometown. After decades of austere rule by the Communist dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, the city is now sinking in unbridled corruption and plummeting living standards for all but a splashy new elite.

Near the elegant pre-World War II facades of Revolution Square, owners of glitzy new boutiques chase the homeless with attack dogs, while \$90-a-month workers stare bewildered at stands hawking \$5 imported lettuce.

"Six or seven people maybe control 90 percent of the wealth," he said, "and 10 percent goes to the people, possibly even less. The problems are like a catastrophe, like another South America. I think we should have a person with common sense who has lived for 30 years in the West."

Many in Bucharest agree with Mr. Nastase's diagnosis. But they also wonder why he is running with the backing of the governing party of President Ion Iliescu and whether, as an aging member of the celebrity tennis circuit, he has the ability to tackle the job.

Mr. Iliescu's Party of Social Democracy, which Mr. Nastase formally joined in November, is composed of former Communists from the Ceausescu years.

Mr. Nastase's critics contend that he has joined forces with a government that by preventing real reform

and condoning corruption has created one of the region's feeblest post-Communist economies. Some of his friends suggest that he is being used as a way of improving the government's image and consolidating its control over the capital.

Ion Tiriac, who was Mr. Nastase's doubles partner and, in contrast to Mr. Nastase, has proved to be a successful businessman with a bank, a television station and a car dealership in Romania, was asked who was behind Mr. Nastase's candidacy.

"I don't want to find out," Mr. Tiriac said. "If I were ever to help, I want to be able to help Ilie as an individual, no one else."

As a sports hero who enjoyed the privileges of coming home whenever he wanted, of owning a grand house

"They made the decision for me to run. But I'm not going to bend."

when most suffered in cramped apartments and who brought recognition to his country, Mr. Nastase always stopped short of criticizing the repression under Mr. Ceausescu. Now he criticizes the results of the six years of post-Communist rule in Romania, though not the politicians.

"They made the decision for me to run," he said. "But once I'm mayor, I'm not going to bend. Tiriac told me one thing. He said, 'I appreciate what you're doing, but don't be used by these people.'"

By using his contacts abroad, Mr. Nastase contends that he will be able to attract Western investment to Bucharest, which until now has seen much of its new capital come from tens of thousands of entrepreneurs from Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon and China.

"I will be very flexible to people who want to invest," Mr. Nastase said. "McDonald's complains that it took them two years to come in here because they wouldn't agree to pay a bribe."

"I know a couple of guys, Romanians," he added, "who want to fix the roads, but because they don't pay a couple of millions to the current mayor, they don't get the license. I have a company from Denmark that wants to fix the pipes. And there's a project from the States to build inexpensive housing."

British Anti-European Demands Referendum

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — The anti-European millionaire James Goldsmith demanded Monday that Prime Minister John Major conduct a referendum on Britain's future in Europe.

Mr. Goldsmith's Referendum Party is threatening to run against Mr. Major's Conservative candidates in a general election.

In a full-page advertisement in many British newspapers, Mr. Goldsmith warned that Mr. Major's plan for a limited referendum on the single European currency, expected to be included in a government white paper Tuesday, was "an empty gesture."

Mr. Goldsmith urged Mr. Major to "encourage a full, open and fair debate on the most important issue that any nation could possibly have to face."

At Referendum Party headquarters here, Prity Patel, a researcher, said that if Mr. Major promised a referendum on the full European issue, her party would withdraw candidates for the election, to be held by spring 1997 at the latest.

Mr. Goldsmith's advertisement reads: "The referendum should allow for a full debate on the sort of Europe of which Britain wants to be part."

The governing Conservative Party is split over Europe. Euroskeptics were threatening dissent Monday if the paper did not take a tough line on curbing the

power of the European Union administration in Brussels.

Conservative members of Parliament in marginal seats were urging Mr. Major to negotiate with Mr. Goldsmith, whose party was created in November 1994. The Referendum Party said it had already selected 400 candidates.

The paper, published in advance of the European Union's Intergovernmental Conference on the Maastricht treaty later this month, will set out the government's position on Europe and conditions under which any referendum would be held.

Parliament is to begin debate on the paper March 21.

Euroskeptics are already making it clear that Mr. Major must propose ways in which EU member states can reclaim the "sovereignty" they have already ceded to the EU.

"It's absolutely essential that there are reductions of competence — in other words, a reduction of the degree of European government — in this white paper," said Bill Cash, a member of Parliament.

He said that unless that happened, there could be a "significant" revolt against the government on March 21, imperiling its two-seat majority in the 651-seat House of Commons.

(AFP, Reuters)



TERRORISM TRIAL — Johannes Wehrich, entering a Berlin courtroom Monday. He is accused of a 1983 bomb attack on the French cultural center in the city that killed one and wounded 23.

A Habsburg Defies Exile From Austria

Son of Last Kaiser Meets Vienna Press

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

In what might be described as an act of *lèse-majesté*, a Brussels businessman who was born an Austrian archduke challenged legal banishment from his native land by appearing at a press conference Monday in Vienna.

Felix Habsburg-Lorraine was 3 years old in 1919, when the fledgling republic banished his father, Charles, the last Austrian emperor, and other family members.

Mr. Habsburg, 79, can travel to any country in the world on an Austrian passport, except his own. The passport, issued by the Austrian Embassy in Mexico City, contains the mention, "entrance and transit in Austria not permitted." He crossed the border in secret over the weekend, an associate said.

Austrian authorities took no immediate action against Mr. Habsburg, acknowledging, as one Foreign Ministry official put it, that "he will not unsettle the stability of our republic." The official described the case, which was a major item for Austrian news media, as "bizarre," but thought it unlikely that Mr. Habsburg would be, man-handled out of the country.

In January, Mr. Habsburg asked the chancellor's office and the federal police to issue him a normal passport so that he could take part in the board meetings of two Austrian companies he has joined as a marketing consultant.

It takes the government about one week to issue a passport to an ordinary citizen, but in Mr. Habsburg's case, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said, the question was still under review.

Mr. Habsburg said he was no longer even bothering to contest the 1919 law of banishment. He has argued through his lawyers that the law has been superseded by that of the European Union, which Austria joined Jan. 1, 1995. EU legislation guarantees freedom of movement for European citizens.

But government officials in Vienna say that the country's legal system was closely reviewed by experts from the European Commission before Austria joined the EU, and that no objection was made to the Habsburg law. They argue that EU law does permit states to restrict freedom of movement for specific reasons.

Robespierre once warned that a dethroned king in a republic was a permanent threat to its peace and freedom. The exile law was aimed at forestalling any attempt to restore the monarchy as the republic consolidated its powers. The law was rescinded in 1935, however, and Mr. Habsburg attended a military academy in Austria in the expectation that the family would return.

But after the Nazi annexation of Austria, Hitler reinstated the law, and under Soviet pressure it was reinstated in the State Treaty of 1955, when the Allies ended their occupation and recognized the country's independence.

Austrian officials said the easiest way for Mr. Habsburg to enter the country would be to formally renounce his claim to the throne, as did his two older brothers, including Otto, a member of the European Parliament.

Felix Habsburg-Lorraine would now be next in line for the throne, if it existed. But he has stated that he is making no political or material claims, nor is he challenging the legitimacy of the republic. He also argues that his exile is a violation of the 1952 European Human Rights Convention, of which Austria is a member.

Mr. Habsburg did enter Austria briefly in 1989 to attend the funeral of his mother, the Empress Zita, but he left the same evening, and officials took no action.

Mr. Habsburg's arrest-if-you-dare-play makes matters "very difficult," said Franz Cede, senior legal officer at the Foreign Ministry. "We are at a rather delicate stage of the case."

In Retreat, Rebels Fight Russians

The Associated Press

GROZNY, Russia — Small groups of Chechen rebels battled with Russian troops Monday as separatist fighters continued their retreat from the Chechen capital.

The entire city was without water and power following four days of fierce fighting during which the rebels destroyed water pumping stations and power plants and set an oil refinery ablaze.

The Russian government claimed victory Sunday over a large rebel force that attacked Grozny last week in the worst fighting in the city in a year, but groups of separatist fighters harassed the Russians on the outskirts of the Chechen capital Monday.

Russian troops in helicopter gunships pursued guerrillas in the woods on the edge of the city, and fighting was reported Monday in at least three districts of Grozny.

Interior Minister Anatoli Kulikov, in Grozny on Monday, said that a rebel force of about 1,000 attacked the city Wednesday and that 300 rebels had been killed and 350 others wounded. The toll was approximately double earlier reported figures.

The Interior Ministry said that 170 Russian troops had been killed and more than 100 others wounded. Interfax news agency reported.

Mr. Kulikov said that 79 Interior Ministry troops and Chechen policemen had been killed. He gave no death toll for the Russian Army.

CSU Gains in Bavaria

MUNICH — Theo Waigel, finance minister and head of the Christian Social Union, claimed a "magnificent victory" for his party in Sunday's municipal elections in Bavaria. Early results showed the conservative CSU made important gains, although in many cities a runoff will be needed.

The Bavarian election, in which residents from other European Union countries were allowed to vote for the first time, was seen as an important test, coming two weeks ahead of major state elections in North Rhine-Westphalia, Baden-Wuerttemberg and Schleswig-Holstein. About 8.7 million voters elected mayors and municipal and district councils. A second round will be held where needed March 24.

Corsican Attack Seen

PARIS — The French daily newspaper Liberation accused Corsican separatists on Monday of an attack with automatic weapons against the Paris area home of one of its reporters on Corsican affairs.

The center-left daily said the weekend attack on the home of Guy Benhamou, in which no one was hurt, "may not have been aimed to kill but certainly to show what they could do to intimidate." No one has claimed responsibility.

Italian Police Hold 200

ROME — Security forces launched a crackdown Monday on organized crime in Rome and Naples, arresting nearly 200 people suspected of collusion with the Mafia, police said.

In Rome about 40 people were arrested on drug trafficking charges, including Fabiola Moretti, a state witness in the trial of Giulio

Andreotti, the former prime minister. Police also arrested several leading organized crime figures. In Naples, more than 150 people were arrested in connection with an international drug ring. Several prison staff were held over accusations they provided services to imprisoned Mafia members.

75-Car Pile-Up in U.K.

LONDON — Seventy-five cars piled up on a foggy highway Monday, killing one person, triggering a second pile-up and blocking the M11 roadway, the police said.

Fourteen people were injured in the two accidents in morning rush-hour traffic 45 miles (72 kilometers), north of London, the police said.

Calendar

EU events scheduled for Tuesday:

BRUSSELS: The commissioner for consumer policy and fisheries, Emma Bonino, meets the Irish fisheries minister, Eamon Gilmore.

STRASBOURG: European Parliament session with appearances by Edith Cresson, research and development commissioner, and Martin Mangemans, industry and information technology commissioner.

MAINZ, Germany: Monika Wulf-Mathies, regional policy commissioner, meets the Rheinland-Pfalz premier, Kurt Beck.

STRASBOURG: Parliament debates the issues of food produced using biotechnology, and the transportation of nuclear waste.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP

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INTERNATIONAL

Israel's Curbs Hinder Food and Medical Care

Ban Is Blamed for 2 Palestinian Deaths

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
GAZA CITY — Israeli restrictions imposed on the Gaza Strip and West Bank following a string of suicide bombings are causing food shortages and blocking some seriously ill Palestinians from getting medical care in Israel.

Two Palestinians died because the travel ban kept them from reaching hospitals, Palestinian and Israeli sources said.

The restrictions, which keep 2 million Palestinians from entering Israel, were imposed Feb. 25, after Muslim militants conducted the first two suicide bombings. Two more explosions followed a

week later. A total of 58 people were killed.

The Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat complained that the restrictions have pushed the Gaza Strip to the brink of starvation. "The bitterness begets more suicide bombers," Mr. Arafat reportedly told Israeli peace activists.

UN officials said there was no hunger in Gaza yet, but that supplies were running low and that the agency was considering an emergency food distribution.

Ron Wilkinson, spokesman for the UN Relief and Works Agency, said the situation could become critical if the closure remained in effect another week. "But nobody is starving to death today," he said.

But the restrictions were blamed Monday for the death of an elderly Palestinian woman. The Association of Israeli-Palestinian Physicians for Human Rights, an organization based in Tel Aviv, said an ambulance transporting the ill woman was held up for five hours at the Erez crossing from the Gaza Strip to Israel. During the wait the woman died.

SUMMIT: Assad Won't Attend

Continued from Page 1

Otherwise, the meeting "will serve no useful purpose," said Mr. Netanyahu, who heads the rightist Likud bloc.

At a women's convention in Jerusalem, Mr. Peres said:

"First of all, it is good to know there is a world which stands against terrorism and identifies with the state of Israel," said the prime minister. And for the first time, he said, "so many Arab countries" had joined in that stand.

But Mr. Peres added that he expected the leaders meeting in Egypt to take practical steps against Islamic terrorists.

The summit meeting is to be led by Mr. Mubarak and President Bill Clinton.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry said Monday that 31 countries have been invited, and that 22 countries have so far said they would send representatives.

Those scheduled to attend, in addition to Mr. Clinton, Mr. Mubarak, Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat, are:

King Hussein of Jordan; the UN secretary-general, Boutros Boutros Ghali; Prime Minister John Major of Britain; President Jacques Chirac of France; President Boris Yeltsin of Russia; Foreign Minister Ahmet Arslan of Algeria; the Bahraini Crown Prince, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany; Prime Minister Lamberto Dini of Italy; Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda of Japan; Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al Ahmad al Jaber of Kuwait; Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates; President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey; Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Nuri of the United Arab Emirates; Foreign Minister Abdul-Karim of Iraq; and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

(Reuters, AP)

THAIS: Rituals Are Dying in a New Age

Continued from Page 1

"Ordination has lost its meaning," said Phra Dharma Pidak, one of the country's most prominent religious scholars.

"A lot of time criminals use the temple as a temporary refuge."

Buddhism and the nation's thousands of temples remain a cultural touchstone for many Thais, who often consult monks about personal problems or seek astrological predictions.

Temples are crowded with worshippers; virtually every home has an altar or spirit-house.

It is alms from the community that for centuries have fed the country's more than 200,000 lifelong monks as well as the tens of thousands like Mr. Kasem who join them temporarily at any one time.

But for some people, veneration has become tinged with suspicion and even fear.

"Before, I really respected the monk," said a middle-aged woman who owns a dress shop in fast-expanding Bangkok.

"Now when I go to the temple and I see a young monk I am afraid of him. I am afraid he is going to seduce me. I am afraid he is going to rob me. Now when I go up-country to see the abbot, I ask my mother or my sister to accompany me. Oh, I don't want to go to see the monk alone!"

In response to such fears, government officials recently proposed issuing identity cards to keep tabs on the keepers of the faith.

And in February the Ministry of Education, which oversees the Department of Religious Affairs, proposed a further measure: lie-detector tests to monitor the sincerity of monks' pledges of celibacy.

In a further sign of the realignment of contemporary society in Thailand, it was a consortium of three business establishments — part of the new Thai elite — that offered to donate lie-detector machines.

Mr. Kasem's family, in this village about 80 kilometers (about 50 miles) north of Bangkok, lives at the fringe of the city's rapid development, its life hovering between tradition and modernity.

His mother, La-or, sold an inherited plot of farmland about 10 years ago as the construction of small factories spread outward from the capital.

She used the money to build a house with electricity and running water, and her husband and two sons now work in the factories instead of the fields.

His father, Somsak, said he had spent nearly \$3,000, or about eight months' pay, on the ordination.

It included a visit to his house by 12 monks and a raucous outdoor banquet for 400 guests in a neighboring field, with an elaborate stage and a rock band with bump-and-grind dancers.

He said Mr. Kasem, 24, went through the process with the willingness of a dutiful, traditional son.

"After he has enjoyed life for more than 20 years, he should do something for his father and mother," Somsak said.

The process was one of self-abasement as well as exaltation as Kasem Wayamo had his head shaved at a temple, then knelt at home to wash the feet of his parents and grandparents.

He laughed and shivered as friends and relatives splashed him with water to cleanse him before the visit of the monks.

They arrived, in their orange robes, not in a huge luxury car but squeezed into the back of a bright red pickup truck.

One of Kasem's cousins, Wanpen Wayamo, who is also 24, offered a further indication that tradition still has the upper hand in the village and that people here — children and adults, men and women — know their roles.

All boys do this to honor their parents," she whispered, as the monks chanted their prayers. "Girls don't do it. Girls get married."



BUILDING BUNGEE — David Stoutek, foreground, and Jirka Rotrekl getting set Monday to "race down" the side of a Prague hotel. Mr. Rotrekl won, covering the 75-meter descent in 7.73 seconds.

CHINA: Beijing Warns on Intervention, Calling Idea 'Ridiculous'

Continued from Page 1

into a region where all sides are on high alert and where each side's rules of engagement are not well understood by the others poses inherent risks," said Kenneth Lieberthal, a China expert at the University of Michigan. "There is thus a danger of unexpected incidents causing unwanted escalation."

Mr. Qian said he might meet next month with the U.S. secretary of state, Warren M. Christopher, who over the weekend called the proximity of China's military exercises to Taiwan's coast "reckless." The Chinese foreign minister also said he "would also ask the United States if their decision is reckless and erroneous." He added, "No foreign country has the right to interfere or make irresponsible comments about China's military exercises."

Tensions have mounted with the approach of Taiwan's first-ever democratic elections, scheduled for March 23, and with Taiwan's pursuit of greater international recognition. China has regarded the self-governing island as a renegade

province ever since Nationalist forces fled there after losing the civil war to the Communists on the mainland. Although the governing Nationalist Party officially favors reunification between Taiwan and the mainland, China believes President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan has pursued formal independence.

On the campaign trail there Sunday, Mr. Lee played down the threat from China. "It's not that Taiwan does not want reunification," he said. "It's just that Taiwanese people do not want to live under a communist system."

The rhetoric Monday stood in sharp contrast to the tone of January 1995, when President Jiang Zemin of China made a relatively conciliatory speech about Taiwan, saying that "China does not fight China."

Mr. Qian said that the substance of Mr. Jiang's speech — offering a Hong Kong-style "one country, two systems" arrangement to Taiwan — still represented Chinese policy, but few analysts expected the gap between the two sides to close now.

"Two years ago all were in a 'win-

win" situation, where each country was enjoying the benefits of stability, security, and economic growth," said Mr. Lieberthal. "The current situation is coming close to the brink of a 'lose-lose' situation, where all will be far worse off."

Analysts expect that the Chinese military exercise scheduled to begin Tuesday will resemble an exercise China held for 11 days in August, when navy warplanes and ships test-fired short-range air-to-air and ship-to-air missiles, live artillery shells, and conducted cruising man-

euvers. But whereas in the past China has said such exercises were merely aimed at improving preparedness, Mr. Qian said Monday that the military exercises were also "aimed at demonstrating China's determination and capability to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Analysts said that China's military exercises are aimed at undermining support for Mr. Lee, who is heavily favored to win re-election, and influencing Taiwan's post-election diplomacy. Yet polls in Taiwan suggest that China's intimidation may have increased his support.



On the Nationalist Chinese island of Quemoy, just a mile and a half from mainland China, a workman forges a souvenir knife made from a Communist Chinese shell that landed during a fierce artillery battle in 1958.

DEPLOY: U.S. Sends 2d Carrier Group to Cruise Off Taiwan as 'Precautionary Measure'

Continued from Page 1

favorable trade status "it will be a lot tougher sell."

The Nimitz will be replaced in the Gulf region by a carrier group led by the George Washington, now in the Western Mediterranean.

The redeployments come at a time of increasingly blunt threats from China about the upcoming presidential elections on Taiwan and moves that Beijing perceives as preparatory to a claim of independence by the island.

Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher said Sunday that a naval battle group led by the Independence was be-

ing moved nearer to Taiwan. It had been carrying out routine operations in waters between Okinawa and Taiwan.

The Nimitz should reach the area near Taiwan next week, before the island's March 23 election.

Mr. Perry would not speculate on the likelihood of a Chinese attack on Taiwan. But the defense secretary said the Clinton administration viewed the situation "with very great concern."

The Independence, escorted by two destroyers and a frigate, had been within about 200 miles (320 kilometers) of Taiwan last week, as they monitored China's firing Friday of three unarmed ballistic missiles.

The Bunker Hill, a guided-missile cruiser, has been operating in waters south of Taiwan.

At least one of the three missiles crossed over Taiwan's territorial waters en route to its target, Senator Frank H. Murkowski said Monday, after a briefing by the CIA.

Mr. Murkowski, an Alaska Republican, said in an interview with The Associated Press that a special CIA task force was monitoring China's military moves. Land-based maneuvers have also been under way near China's southeastern coast.

Mr. Murkowski described China's M-9 missiles as highly capable interme-

diates-range weapons, able to elude the most advanced missile defense systems now in service.

Exercises with live ammunition, scheduled to begin Tuesday, will disrupt air and maritime traffic. Hundreds of flights have been rerouted.

Military specialists said that the Chinese Air Force and Navy are small and outdated, and that an invasion of the heavily defended island would be foolhardy. Neither Taiwan nor China has a powerful navy. Of the 4,000 planes in the Chinese Air Force, some 3,900 use technology from the 1950s or '60s. Taiwan, on the other hand, has F-16s from the United States.

Neutrality On Taiwan

Southeast Asia Fearful Of Offending Beijing

By Michael Richardson
 International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — Southeast Asian countries, fearful of angering Beijing and thereby hardening its disputed claim to control over much of the South China Sea, are trying to maintain a neutral policy as tension increases over Taiwan.

Analysts said Monday that a major concern of countries in Southeast Asia was that possible U.S. military

NEWS ANALYSIS

intervention in response to any Chinese use of force against Taiwan would put them under intense pressure to take sides in a conflict pitting China against the United States, probably in alliance with Japan.

Defense officials in the Philippines and Thailand, both of which have mutual defense pacts with the United States similar to that between Washington and Tokyo, are worried that if U.S. forces became involved in protecting Taiwan, they might be dragged into fighting China.

While Tokyo has closer ties to Taipei than most other Asian nations and sees China as a potential threat to its strong position in the region, the less powerful countries of Southeast Asia are particularly keen to avoid offending Beijing or getting drawn into another turbulent round of power politics so soon after the end of the Cold War.

Although Western diplomats said that the reluctance of Southeast Asian nations to condemn China's military intimidation of Taiwan might embolden Beijing to enforce its sweeping territorial claims elsewhere in the region, only Singapore has warned China publicly of the consequences of using force.

China, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province, responded by saying that the matter was "completely an internal affair," implying that Singapore or any other country seeking to influence China's policies should mind its own business.

Analysts said the refusal of regional countries to be drawn into the dispute also reflected strict observance of a "one China" policy that is considered essential to maintaining good relations with Asia's largest power.

Referring to Beijing's handling of the Taiwan issue, Jusuf Wanandi, chairman of the supervisory board of the Indonesia's Center for Strategic and International Studies, said: "We think that is their domestic affair because we recognize one China and Taiwan as part of it."

He said that, like China, Indonesia and a number of other Southeast Asian countries have problems with ethnic groups seeking separation and did not want to take any action, such as showing support for Taiwan, that could provide a precedent for outside intervention in their internal affairs.

Vietnam, despite its long history of resistance to domination by China, on Monday became the latest Southeast Asian nation to adopt a strictly even-handed approach by calling on both Beijing and Taipei to show restraint.

"Vietnam hopes that self-control by all sides could help to avoid regrettable consequences," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Hanoi.

Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei all dispute China's claims to sovereignty over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

If Beijing took over the islands, it would gain control over a vast area of surrounding waters and seabed that are said to contain rich oil and natural gas deposits. It would also make China an immediate neighbor of nearly every Southeast Asian country, something they want to avoid for security reasons.

NET: In the Great Internet Battle, the Scramble for Allies Is On

Continued from Page 1

gives Netscape an advantage in server software, which is used by publishers of Web pages, and thus allows it considerable influence in the evolution of the Internet.

The conferencing standards announced by Microsoft and Intel are a forward-looking strategy based around the expansion of the Internet into communications areas.

The standards are aimed at helping business users make video, voice and data conference calls; collaborate, and share their applications with others over the Internet. Intel has been working for several years on technologies that would transfer video-conferencing from peripheral devices to its chips.

Under the standards, to be delivered later this year, the companies said students would be able to see live video of their instructors and view classroom materials over the Internet. Grandparents would be able to talk and play games with their

grandchildren via Internet video telephones. Video and phone conversations could be placed between different kinds of computers, such as a Macintosh and a Windows-based model.

Microsoft and Intel said the standards would be based on current technologies, facilitating Internet communications over existing computer operating systems and hardware.

The Microsoft announcement about ISDN links concerned alliances with companies that include MCI Communications Corp., Sprint Corp., six of the seven Baby Bells and Motorola Inc.

But Netscape now is aligned with AOL, CompuServe and Prodigy Services Inc., and it has an agreement with AT&T Corp., the leading long-distance company in America. AT&T, meanwhile, announced a deal Monday that would give users of its new Internet services price reductions on AOL's services.

In another computer-communications deal, meanwhile, Microsoft and Hughes Electronics Corp.'s DirecTV said they

had formed a venture to beam television programs and data to personal computers.

Computers with modified hardware and software would be able to receive through a satellite dish DirecTV's 170 channels of sports, news and entertainment, along with information from the Internet and other sources, the partners said.

Microsoft said it was developing specifications for a version of the digital satellite service's decoder, a device that translates satellite broadcasts into usable pictures and information, for computers that use its Windows 95 software.

Those specifications would also enable owners of some older multimedia computers to upgrade their systems to receive satellite pictures and data.

As part of the agreement, Microsoft has licensed the direct satellite technology from DirecTV and Thomson Consumer Electronics, which manufactures satellite broadcasting equipment. (Reuters, Bloomberg, AP)

Iraq Says New Standoff With UN Team Is Over

Reuters

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Iraq's chief delegate to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoun, said Monday that the standoff between UN weapons inspectors and Iraqi authorities south of Baghdad had ended.

Diplomats said UN officials were briefing the Security Council on the news. "The inspectors went in and they are now inspecting," Mr. Hamdoun said. "They are after some hardware, which I am sure they are not going to find."

He said the UN team had been trying to look at sites that broke a "gentleman's agreement" between the Iraq and the UN Special Commission in charge of scrapping weapons of mass destruction.

"The sites should have been dealt with differently and have to be avoided," he said. "Because of that we had to take some time discussing the modalities."

The latest standoff occurred at Sarabadi, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Baghdad, which Iraq said was a Presidential Guard training facility. On Friday the same 43 inspectors were barred from a building in Baghdad that Iraq said belonged to its Irrigation Ministry. They were allowed to enter after an 18-hour siege.

MARKET: Street Rebounds

Continued from Page 1

most important question hanging over Wall Street, and it is essentially a question of psychology.

Thirty-something investors whose experience goes back only as far as the bounce-back after the 1987 crash and have never lived through a bear market are powering this one.

"You can't scare them," said Hugh Johnson of First Albany Securities. He worried that their insistence on buying stock funds at any cost may create a market mania that will eventually burst.

But Michael Metz of Oppenheimer & Co. believes the message of a sluggish economy will sink in well before that. He said that investors would realize that curbs on

companies' ability to expand sales, raise prices and increase productivity would squeeze profit margins.

"People will start to think about putting their money in to cash instead of buying more stocks, and that may bring the market back to about 5,000 by the end of the year," he said. "We've already had our gain for this year."

Not likely, commented Rosanne M. Cahn, equity economist for CS First Boston. "People are lagging indicators," she said, noting that it took the mass of small investors at least five years to get out of real estate and into financial assets after the stock market began its great bull run in the mid-1980s. They are likely to move out just as slowly if the market goes into a swoon, she said.

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INTERNATIONAL

NATO and the Valley of Death

Senior Officers Quarrel Over a Visit to Srebrenica

By Rick Atkinson
Washington Post Service

SREBRENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — From the asphalt roads the U.S. Army calls Route Swallow, the narrow valley leading into this war-battered town looks almost serene. Horses clop past, pulling haycarts. Children boot a soccer ball through a makeshift goal, and fields, now all but clear of snow, await the plow that signals spring.

On classified NATO maps, however, this is the valley of death. Within a dozen miles of Srebrenica, intelligence analysts have identified 32 possible mass grave sites interspersed among the corn sheaves, many linked to the alleged slaughter of an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 Muslims following the Serbian capture of the town last July.

For nearly three months, NATO peace forces in Bosnia have steered clear of Srebrenica in an effort to focus on the more immediate military tasks of separating the warring factions.

That mission ended over the weekend, when the first U.S. Army patrol entered the town on a brief reconnaissance mission. Although modest, the four-vehicle convoy was the first significant Western military presence in Srebrenica since Dutch peacekeepers were routed by the Serbs last summer.

Soldiers took a few pictures of Serbian anti-aircraft weapons, noted the suitability of the soccer stadium as a helicopter landing pad and left after 45 minutes. Local residents, many of whom are refugees from the Sarajevo suburbs, reacted only with curious stares and a few desultory waves.

A U.S. Army artillery battery simultaneously set up a pair of M-109 self-propelled howitzers, dubbed Bossman and Badboy, and a 12-tube rocket launcher in firing positions 10 miles northwest as a just-in-case exercise.

Led by Colonel John Batiste, commander of the 1st Armored Division's 2d Brigade, the patrols were the first step in what may be an emotional and potentially explosive effort to discover what really happened in Srebrenica eight months ago.

International war crimes investigators intend to descend on the city later this month, and the much anticipated excavation of selected sites may be under way in weeks, U.S. officials said.

If what happened in Srebrenica this weekend held portents for both Serbian culpability and the outside world's efforts to find justice in Bosnia, what did not happen Monday suggests the uneasiness that besets NATO and the U.S. Army in dealing with the war crimes issue. The weekend patrol had been

intended as a prelude to a more ambitious visit Monday by Admiral Leighton W. Smith Jr., commander of NATO forces in the former Yugoslavia. Then Admiral Smith abruptly canceled his trip.

The confusion reflected an intense behind-the-scenes tussle between top NATO officials, who are under pressure to get on with the investigation in Srebrenica, and the U.S. Army, which has long believed that the town represents a potential deviation from strictly military tasks into the slippery war of Bosnian politics, international justice and moral obligation.

Almost to a man, senior army officers in Bosnia believe that poking around Srebrenica, like the associated tasks of hunting accused war criminals or guarding suspected mass grave sites, detracts from more urgent requirements, and that it risks upsetting the fragile trust being built on the basis of a rigorous evenhandedness.

"The factions have to believe I'm impartial," said a senior officer. "If they don't believe that, they will not cooperate with me in an aboveboard way."

Another senior commander said, "If we move too early on this mass graves issue, it could really upset the delicate balance we've got here, especially with the Serbs, by appearing to choose sides."

Major General William L. Nash, commander of the 1st Armored Division and of the U.S. forces in Bosnia, prefers to defer venturing into Srebrenica until mid-May, after the factions have fulfilled various disarmament requirements specified under the Dayton peace accord, according to sources in his Tuzla headquarters.

General Nash vigorously opposed Admiral Smith's visit, the sources added, particularly the admiral's insistence that the army provide a fleet of Humvee vehicles and drivers without a substantial backup security force of armor and helicopter gunships.

Admiral Smith evidently hoped to keep the visit low-key. In addition to visiting the eastern Bosnian towns of Zvornik and Bratunac, he was scheduled to meet with the mayor of Srebrenica for an hour and then possibly visit a grave site.

But General Nash said the minimal security would put at risk the soldiers who were to accompany the admiral, army sources said. Some intelligence analysts feared that Serbs involved in the massacres could be desperate enough to attempt to challenge war crimes investigators or their NATO protectors violently.



A deserted street with a building burning in the background on Monday in Ildza, a Serbian suburb of Sarajevo.

Serb Police Make an Unruly Exit

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

ILIDZA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — With drunken insults, shots in the air, widespread arson and an earth-trembling explosion inside a courthouse, Serbian police staggered out of Ildza on Monday, bringing to an end almost four years of Serbian rule in Sarajevo's biggest suburb.

The anarchic exodus of the frazzled, angry gunmen in their midnight-blue camouflage jumpsuits, overseen by French NATO troops in firing positions, brought to four the number of Serbian-controlled suburbs vacated by Serbian politicians and police under a timetable set out by Western negotiators.

Only one Sarajevo suburb, Grbavica, is left in Serbian control. It will pass to Muslim-Croat authorities on March 19. The following day, Bosnian Army troops will be allowed in all five suburbs, marking formal reunification of Sarajevo for the first time since Bosnia's war began in April 1992.

The departure Monday of the Serbian police had all the hallmarks of the brutal and sometimes surreal siege that they and other Serbian gunmen prosecuted. At least 15 of the 30 officers appeared

inebriated as they elbowed each other for room in crowded vans. Several of the men pointed automatic weapons out of the windows and uncorked fusillades of gunfire in the general direction of the blue sky as the vehicles pulled out of town. One man tossed a grenade off a bridge into the Miljacka River, sending a geyser of water and mud into the air.

As a column of Serbian trucks, vans, buses and broken-down cars limped out of town, an explosion rocked Ildza's courthouses, sparking another of this suburb's many blazes. A black plume of smoke curled from the four-story building, casting a pall over the center of the town as the Serbs, waving the flag of their self-declared republic, left the area for Serbian-controlled turf in the hills above this European capital.

One Serbian woman, who is married to a Muslim, shook with tears and fear as the hapless column pulled out of town. She said she and her husband had decided to stay.

"But really, where is there a place for us in this new, divided Bosnia?" she asked. "Why has everyone forgotten us, the mixed people?"

Throughout the show, the French NATO soldiers stood by with dumbfounded expressions. Smoke, snaked

skyward around the suburb. United Nations police reported at least 40 cases of arson as Serbs sought to destroy property so the Muslim-Croat federation could not use it.

But ironically, almost as soon as the Serbian police officers left Ildza, the security situation improved dramatically. Maksim Stanic, one of the few Serbian politicians who is remaining, issued a statement saying that "things have calmed down considerably."

On Monday night, only eight fires were seen burning in an area several square miles wide, a marked change from Sunday night, when large swaths of the suburb had been ablaze.

The Serbian police appeared to have done their job, though. It was they, mostly from eastern Bosnia, who were dispatched into the Serbian-held suburbs by the Bosnian Serb leadership to serve as many Serbs as possible to leave, UN officials have said.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and the rest of his group of ultranationalist Serbs needed to compel their people to flee the capital because the preservation of a multi-ethnic Sarajevo is one of the main conditions for the preservation of Bosnia as a sovereign state.

Centrists Press Berlusconi

2 Parties in Coalition Threaten to Run Alone

By Rick Atkinson

ROME — Two centrist parties threatened Monday to quit former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's Freedom Alliance coalition and run alone in Italy's general election.

The Christian Democratic Center and United Christian Democratic parties issued their threat as a power struggle intensified in the center-right bloc over how many seats each partner should contest in the April 21 election.

"The party leaderships have met and are working to draw up autonomous lists for the forthcoming elections," the two parties said in a joint statement. "We are appealing to Catholics and moderates to give the center its place back in Italian politics."

The two parties are junior partners in the coalition and account for only about 4 percent of votes. But their presence has given centrist credibil-

ity to the formation, whose dominant partners are Mr. Berlusconi's conservative Forza Italia party and the far-right National Alliance.

The centrists are angry over efforts by Mr. Berlusconi to draw a libertarian group led by the maverick politician Marco Pannella and the critic Vittorio Sgarbi into an electoral alliance. "I don't see how we can sell our votes to a deal with people who support abortion and the legalization of drugs," said a spokesman for the United Christian Democrats, Walter Guarnacino.

An electoral pact with the Pannella-Sgarbi group threatens to reduce the number of seats the coalition would make available to candidates of the two centrist parties.

In the statement, the two parties asserted that Mr. Pannella was demanding a "privileged position" that would "profoundly alter the basis of the center-right alliance."

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

Corporation Bashing

"When leading corporations take in massive profits but shed productive employees, the only proper response is moral outrage... And if we allow Wall Street alone to dictate the behavior of corporations, even if they're run by good and decent people, as most of them are, we can't be surprised when they put short-term profits ahead of people every time."

That was the House minority leader, Richard Gephardt, in a speech last month. He has not been alone. Unlikely as it seems, the Republican presidential primaries have helped set off a round of corporation bashing. Pat Buchanan turned the politicians of both parties when he won in New Hampshire in part by invoking the plight of wage earners who have been losing ground in the economy. Even Bob Dole was moved to observe, at the primary day approach, that "profits are setting records and so are corporate layoffs."

Mr. Gephardt was trying to reclaim the neglected-worker issue for the Democrats. Labor Secretary Robert Reich, whose signature the issue has been for three years, has also been playing off the primary results. "It is time for a new corporate citizenship," he said recently. The president himself said in Michigan that "if they have to do it to keep the business afloat, every American can understand that." But "no one should lose a job for short-term considerations that are not necessary for the long-term well-being of the profitable enterprise."

That is one thing as a sentiment, but how does it translate into policy? Who knows how to distinguish between justified and unjustified cost-cutting, and even if you could distinguish, what is it

that government either could or should do about it? The government already does some shaping of corporate behavior. The wage and hour laws are one example; worker safety, health and environmental regulations are another. Wages are taxed to help pay the costs of unemployment, work-related injury and retirement. The tax laws encourage employer payment of employee health insurance premiums. How much further is it wise to go?

Protectionists would have the government try to cushion workers against lower-wage foreign competition as well. But that is counterproductive. In the long run, by reducing trade, protectionism would cost U.S. workers more income than it would ever save them. Others want to pressure corporations to provide workers with greater security in the form of health insurance and retirement benefits, for example. Those that failed to do so might face higher taxes or be put at a disadvantage in obtaining federal contracts. But one effect would be to add to pressure on precisely those weaker companies most likely now to lay off workers or to pay only low wages.

Bill Clinton has laid out a relatively modest program in this area of worker support. He would increase the minimum wage somewhat, try for now to make health insurance more accessible to people between jobs, and step up education and retraining programs for workers whose jobs disappear. Some would go beyond, hold corporations more responsible than now for keeping jobs and benefits secure and penalize those that did not. Mr. Clinton is wise to leave it where he has.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

What Dole Is About

Now that he has won 12 primaries and the pressure is off, we demand that Bob Dole tell us what he's really all about. Surely, "it" — by which he seems to mean the campaign or the future of America or the existential plight of man as a creature of finite mind in an infinite universe — cannot be all about all the things he has said "it" is all about. The man is toying with us, and it — the toying, that is — has to stop!

One thought that crosses the mind is that Mr. Dole knows precisely what "it" is and what it is all about, but does not want to tell at this point for tactical or perhaps for national security reasons. — Or maybe he is saving the revelation for an inaugural address. If he wins, the nation will be breathless with anticipation by January 1997.

Another possibility is that Mr. Dole, having discussed the strategy for this campaign with the late Richard Nixon, may have a secret plan for revealing what it is all about when and only when he is elected. Such an explanation does have a certain Nixon-Dole left to it. "If you don't elect Bob Dole, you'll never find out what it's all about." That sounds like a '90s version of "You won't have Dick Nixon to kick around anymore."

In any event, we are keeping a running list of things it may be all about, to occupy our time until the glad day when Mr. Dole tells us what it's really all about. The nominees are:

1. Demonstrated leadership. "That's what this race is about." (Feb. 2)
2. Wanting your vote to count against Bill Clinton. "That's what this is all about." (Feb. 13)
3. A race between the mainstream (Dole) and the extreme (You know who). "That's what it's all about." (Feb. 14)
4. The heart and soul of the Republican Party. "That's what this race is all about." (Feb. 15)

Other Comment

What Change for Spain?

The polls said Spain wanted change, and [on March 3] Spaniards elected a new prime minister. The question now is what kind of change José María Aznar, a conservative, will deliver. Will it be what the country needs?

In matters of substance, policies and programs, the campaign did not delineate what changes the electorate or the candidates wanted. Both the conservative and the Socialist camps claimed they were fighting for the center of the political spectrum. Winning the center is hardly a recipe for change.

In the economic realm, Felipe

González's legacy is mixed. The accomplishments are many: Spain's economy is now growing at a 3 percent rate and inflation has been kept at 4 percent; the peseta is one of the strongest currencies in Europe, and there is a steady flow of foreign investment. But Mr. González abandoned his economic liberalization program halfway through his tenure, and he leaves Mr. Aznar a high rate of unemployment, a pension system blown out of proportion, inefficient state industries that need to be privatized, a mess of a tax system and a still simmering problem with the Basques.

—Los Angeles Times.

Not Two Chinas but One China and One Taiwan

By Gerald Segal

LONDON — Optimists about prospects for uninterrupted economic growth in East Asia are holding their breath. They hope that China's intimidation of the Taiwan electorate will be a passing madness and that the region can get back to proving that irrational nationalism no longer gets in the way of economic prosperity.

But even if Beijing finds some excuse that allows it to cool the current crisis it has heated, no one should believe that the problem is solved. In the long run, the dispute will deepen.

There are two main immediate triggers to the Taiwan problem, both with long-term implications. The first is the rapid movement of the island to a more democratic political system and a more confident civil society.

The people of Taiwan feel increasingly distinct and want an international status that recognizes their new self-assertion. Beijing has not exercised authority in Taiwan for several generations; the mainland has controlled the island for only three of the last 100 years. China's recent bellicosity has ensured, as recent polls show, that the people of Taiwan see reunification as an ever less attractive option.

Second, China has responded to democratic politics with authoritarian nationalism. Its weak leaders seek unity through nationalism at a time when the old Communist ideology is discredited. The result is a widening gap with an increasingly liberal and distinctive Taiwan.

Weak leaders in Beijing find it hard, as Mao might have done, to see that there are some steps they could take to back down the ladder of escalation.

If only China were clever enough to do what it did in 1969 when it raised tension with the Soviet Union, and then in the face of adverse conditions pretended that all it wanted was serious negotiations and stepped back from the brink. But no Chinese leader for the foreseeable future can afford to be seen to compromise on nationalist matters.

A more reasonable China might revive the offer to have President Jiang Zemin visit Taipei, or agree to offer Taiwan more international space, perhaps on the model of Taiwan representation at the Olympics or the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

Support for the island's participation at regional security meetings or the recently inaugurated Asia-Europe meetings might reassure Taiwanese.

Such magnanimity that proved China's professions of belief in a real and generous "one country, two systems" formula might make it easier for Taiwan to make concessions of its own. A sensible newly elected President Lee Teng-hui might realize that he will never get a seat for Taiwan in the United Nations and therefore it would be wise to shelve the bid. He might even see that he should focus on domestic economic and constitutional reform instead of grandstanding around the globe.

Some outsiders trust the status quo to allow economic rationality to work its magic. But time is taking Taiwan down a more independent path, and cross-strait economic links have not moderated behavior on either side.

The only hope in the long term may be that China will also become more liberal; then the people of Taiwan might have less reason to fear unification. But in the generation or two that even the most optimistic suggest it will take before China can hold free elections as Taiwan is now doing, the island will

have a well developed, articulate and self-confident society of its own.

Only if a liberal China is also a federal China will there be any hope that Taiwan's people might find attractions in closer relations with the mainland. Yet it is precisely the risks that Beijing sees in federalism that lead it to believe it is preferable to issue crude threats to Taiwan and run risks of a major crisis with the United States.

Western policymakers prefer to pretend that somehow the deeper structural change in Taiwan can be slowed and that China can move faster to a liberal utopia. But when it eventually becomes clear that we are no longer dealing with two Chinas but rather with one China and one Taiwan, the West will have to consider other options.

When Taiwan is seen, like Quebec or Ukraine, as expressing the right to democratic self-determination, it will be harder to believe that this problem could or should be solved on China's terms.

The writer, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies and director of Britain's Pacific Asia Program, contributed this comment to the Herald Tribune.

Stalin's Shadow Will Pursue Russians for Many Years More

By Philip Taubman

NEW YORK — Stalin died 43 years ago, but he torments Russia to this day. As Russians prepare for a presidential election in June, a revived Communist Party is struggling with the still volatile issue of Stalin and his legacy.

Gennadi Zyuganov, the party's presidential candidate, seems wary of condemning one of the founding architects of the Soviet state, yet fearful of embracing him. Other Communists openly defend Stalin as a great leader.

Outsiders find it hard to understand how Russians could regard Stalin with respect, and even admiration. He was among the most brutal dictators in history, a leader who spilled the blood of millions of his countrymen in a drive to modernize Russia and enforce ideological conformity and personal loyalty in the Communist Party.

The continuing debate over Stalin reveals some important, disquieting truths about Russia that the world should bear in mind as Russians choose a president this spring.

One is the power of wounded pride. The disintegration of the Soviet Union has brought democracy and the makings of a market economy to Russia, but it has also left Russia a second-class power. Its empire is gone, its once powerful military is shattered and its place in the world is no longer clear.

Stalin gave Russia power and pride. The human cost was unimaginable. As many as 20 million people died during the forced collectivization of agriculture and the party purges, but many Russians see those losses as the price of industrialization and the emergence of the Soviet

Union as one of the world's two great powers.

Russians also credit Stalin, of course, with the Soviet Union's survival and eventual victory in World War II.

On the surface, the Communist Party today is far removed from the party of Stalin. Mr. Zyuganov and colleagues offer Russians a retreat from the political upheaval and economic dislocation of reform, couched in the rhetoric of moderate social democratic policy.

But just below the surface is a more visceral promise to restore Russia's power and pride. The refusal to denounce Stalin underscores that intention.

The debate over Stalin also reveals resentments that linger from a long-running struggle to shape the record of Russian history. Four decades after Nikita

Khrushchev attacked Stalin in a secret speech to the Communist Party leadership, and nearly a decade after Mikhail Gorbachev reopened public discussion about Stalin's crimes, Russians are still divided over whether they have a 20th-century history worth honoring, beyond their role in the defeat of Hitler.

To disown Stalin is to dismiss much of Soviet history. As terrible as Stalin was, and as much as Russians suffered under his rule — it is hard to find a family not wounded by the terror he sanctioned — a people cannot easily repudiate its past.

If the Stalin era is written off as deformed, then little is left to justify the sacrifices that were made and the lives that were lost. Younger Russians may not care much about this issue, but for older generations, where support for Mr. Zyuganov is strongest, it matters a great deal.

A Russian I knew well in Moscow told me once that despite all the revelations about Stalin's brutality, the dictator was still her hero.

He had transformed Russia, she said, from a backward land into a great nation. It was her way of saying that her life, for all its misery, had been part of a greater enterprise.

Stalin's place in Russian history may not be an overt issue in the presidential campaign, but it will be an undercurrent. Boris Yeltsin is already telling voters that his re-election is the only way to prevent a return to the abuses of communism.

Mr. Zyuganov in oblique ways is trying to exploit the hunger among many Russians for a restoration of pride and power. It will be many more years before Russia finally escapes Stalin's shadow.

The New York Times.

Is Beijing Playing a China Card in America's Election Game?

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — China's Communist rulers served notice last week that they are prepared to see, and may even welcome, the defeat of President Bill Clinton in the coming U.S. election. Beijing seems to harbor hopes that a conservative, anti-communist administration would renew a strategic U.S.-Chinese partnership that would at last be predictable.

That is the conclusion I draw from a conversation with a visiting Chinese official and from the dangerous, provocative decision by China to defy U.S. warnings by firing three unarmed test missiles near Taiwan's largest ports.

The Chinese leaders know that their aggressive actions embarrass this administration. These acts provide the Republicans with new campaign ammunition.

The Chinese provocation

joins other recent incidents in making foreign policy a sleeper issue in this year's campaign.

The Republicans have been quick to seize on China's attempt to intimidate Taiwan, Cuba's renewed brutality, Yasser Arafat's failure to control Palestinian terrorism, and the renewal of the Communist Party in Russia as signs of ineptitude and inconsistency in Clinton foreign policy.

Bob Dole's surge into a commanding lead for the Republican nomination also casts the coming campaign along more traditional lines, with the Republicans on the offense on national security and gleefully questioning the "toughness" of the Democratic leadership.

Their hopes of regaining the foreign policy edge that they have held for most of the past

half-century, in presidential campaigns seemed like an uphill climb even a few weeks ago. Mr. Clinton's quick adaptations in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and elsewhere made his foreign policy a moving target difficult for the Republicans to nail to the wall.

With inflation low and unemployment down from the levels he inherited, the president needed to neutralize foreign policy as a big issue in the campaign to win. He was turning his record abroad into an electoral asset as Pat Buchanan got headlines urging the Republicans to adopt isolationism.

That has all now changed. Mr. Dole is leading his party back from the isolationist brink.

A World War II combat veteran, he can contrast his sacrifice with Mr. Clinton's Vi-

etnam avoidance (not that it did George Bush much good in 1992). The Republicans will argue that a lack of U.S. leadership has encouraged the miscreants to misbehave and Russia to be lost.

In part to counter that effort, Mr. Clinton and his foreign policy advisers have recently begun their most serious effort at elaborating a unified view of the use of American force abroad. They have been moving from a just-in-time foreign policy approach of responding to emergencies to the fashioning of a doctrine.

Engaged, but not dangerously so, would be the worthy bumper sticker of the emerging Clinton doctrine. Or, as Anthony Lake put it in a speech in Washington last Wednesday, "We are standing with those taking risks for peace — through good times and bad."

This passive-sounding formulation (they take the risks, we stand by) contrasts vividly with John F. Kennedy's promise to bear any burden, pay any price, which led America into Vietnam. As presented by Mr. Lake, Mr. Clinton's rules of engagement abroad are in fact a specific antidote to the mistakes of Vietnam, as well as Lebanon and Somalia.

It is a dangerous hubris to believe we can build other nations. But where our own interests are engaged we can help nations build themselves." Mr. Lake said, adding, "Increasingly our interests require that our military keep peace in the wake of internal conflicts. For these operations to succeed, tightly tailored missions and

sharp withdrawal deadlines must be the norm."

In Haiti, he noted that the last of 20,000 American troops deployed there return home in the next six weeks. Haiti has in fact gone better than even the Clintones hoped.

The similarly tightly capped U.S. involvement in Bosnia is likely to be an evolving story right up to election day. If the cease-fire holds, Mr. Clinton can take credit for a skillful use of force, and for having proved the Bush administration wrong about the futility of limited military action in ex-Yugoslavia. A central plank of the Clinton doctrine as stated by Mr. Lake would be validated: "The selective but substantial use of force is sometimes more appropriate than its massive use, provided that the force is adequate to the task, and then some."

Mr. Clinton refused to engage American ground troops in Bosnia before U.S. bombing helped produce a cease-fire. He avoided "a Vietnam-like quagmire," Mr. Lake continued, subliminally identifying the greatest threat that a Democratic president can face.

The president will argue during this election year that he kept his eye on the economy and avoided disaster abroad. The Republicans at this point must depend on the world's bad actors to act bad along the way and ruin Mr. Clinton's applause lines and help the Republicans regain the foreign policy edge. China, Fidel Castro and the others have recently shown why that is far from a forlorn Republican hope.

The Washington Post.

A Fatwa Against Suicide Killings

By Abraham Cooper

LOS ANGELES — As Israel reels from the latest terrorist outrages, I recall my last conversation with the late Yitzhak Rabin. It took place at the prime minister's Jerusalem office on Aug. 21. Earlier that day, a Hamas suicide bomber had blown up a packed bus in the city.

The day before, the dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, Rabbi Marvin Hier, and I had met with the grand mufti of Egypt. We were the first Jewish leaders ever to talk with the spiritual leader of 60 million Sunni Muslims.

We told Mr. Rabin that the grand mufti, who had questioned peace with Israel and derided the Jewish faith in some of his early writings, used our two-hour meeting to speak of tolerance and the need for dialogue.

Mr. Rabin, while encouraged by this news, nonetheless pointedly asked, "Do you think he is prepared to issue a public fatwa against suicide killings by Muslims?"

He said that Israel had desperately but unsuccessfully searched for a respected Muslim religious scholar in the region to publicly rebuke the notion that a suicide attack against men, women and children earns the killer martyr status and automatic entrance to heaven.

The much publicized Arab-Israeli territorial negotiations have helped accelerate dialogue between Muslim and Jewish leaders. In the last six

months, Rabbi Hier and I have met with the imam of Jericho and the leading Shiite cleric in Europe. Religious leaders from Morocco, at the behest of King Hassan II, attended a conference in Paris sponsored by the Wiesenthal Center. All indicated a desire to help write a new chapter in Islamic-Jewish relations.

Such substantive contacts would have been unheard of a few years ago. Their importance cannot be minimized.

Still, it is the question about the missing fatwa posed by Mr. Rabin — who himself would soon be assassinated by a Jewish extremist invoking God's name — that lies at the heart of the problem.

His query speaks to the most intractable and dangerous obstacle to peace: intolerance fueled by religious dogma and personalities.

The stakes go way beyond Hamas attacks against innocent Israelis. Deadly terrorist attacks by fundamentalists have driven tourism from Egypt; car bombs and bloody attacks on journalists and foreigners in Algeria have helped bring that country to the brink of utter chaos.

The Jewish world is still reeling from the implications that the Rabin assassination was committed by a religious Jew, but at least our religious scholars have openly discussed and publicly refuted Yigal Amir's attempt to in-

voke Jewish law to justify his murderous action.

Rabbis and Talmudic scholars understood that their silence on this could lead to a breach in Judaism's fire wall between zealotry and murder.

What has been lacking in the Muslim world is a parallel public debate and unequivocal pronouncements by their spiritual leaders.

If the leaders would speak out, Islam's faithful would respond. Anyone doubting the impact of a fatwa should consult Salman Rushdie.

In the meantime, there is plenty that the secular world can do. World leaders should stop commenting themselves with the hollow mantra that terrorist attacks should not be allowed to derail peace. Instead it is time to make the attackers and those who refuse to destroy terrorism's infrastructure pay a price high enough to change their behavior.

Civilized nations would do well to revisit the Rushdie affair. They successfully stared down the radical mullahs and the powerful regime standing behind their outrageous fatwa. In the wake of the horrific scenes on the streets of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, failure to do at least as much could help bring the fanatic clerics closer to their most cherished dream: the destruction of Israel.

Rabbi Cooper is associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. He contributed this comment to the Los Angeles Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1896: Russified Slavs

LONDON — There is a slow but certain process of Russification which is being carried out in Bulgaria and Serbia by the Slavonic Committee in Moscow. Every year four to six hundred students from Bulgaria and Serbia are educated at Russian universities, and all their expenses are paid by the Russians on the tacit understanding that during their stay in Russia they shall only speak Russian. When the students return home, they are half Russified and spread Russian ideas wherever they come.

1921: Austria in Need

LONDON — No other fate than to be administered by a chartered company seems possible for the once great Austria. The Austrian delegates admit that there is no way out of the present difficulties. Unless aid is forthcoming, they foresee the complete

dowfall of the Government of Vienna. The Allies see in such a downfall nothing but annexation to Germany, and the French and Italians are particularly anxious to prevent this dénouement. There is no State source either in England or France from which Vienna might raise the 250 million dollars which it needs.

1946: Aliens Wanted

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] The French government is looking for 3 million immigrants to plug the gap torn in its population by war. By 1985, if current birth and death trends continue, there would be only 30 million Frenchmen. Immigration is not a new solution for France. Even before the war, most of France's heavy industrial and agricultural labor was done by foreigners — Poles, Belgians, Spaniards and Italians. Invitations are now going out to all these countries.

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OPINION/LETTERS

A Lesson in Economics:
Good News Is Good News

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — A company announces layoffs that will make its products cost less and increase its profits. This is greeted as good news by American investors, and the stock goes up.

But then the Robert Reich-Pat Buchanan popu-lits — their philosophy deeply mired in the 1930s — "downsizing" as a sign of rampant greed by plutocrats at the expense of exploited workers.

The nation announces the good news that our rate of unemployment is making new lows, that job-creation is booming. Because this is treated as bad news by investors fixated on interest rates, the stock market falls out of bed.

Ah-hah! cry the popu-lits — this goes to show that what's good for Main Street lumpsen-proletariat is bad for Wall Street stuffed shirts.

Time for a few home truths:

1. You can't make a prosperity omelet without breaking eggs. Downsizing — making a bloated, high-cost enterprise lean

Break some eggs.
Make some profits.

and green by laying off layers of supervisors — provides the greatest good for the greatest number.

Overstuffed companies in Germany and Japan are playing catch-up because the United States has shown how slimmed-down producers deliver more value for consumers, more profits for investors and, because only the fittest companies survive, more security for workers.

2. Low unemployment is good for the economy. High employment's pressure to raise wages, which might reduce profits, is more than offset by increased demand for products, which adds to profits.

When the rate of unemployment was 8 percent, blue-collar workers bore the brunt of joblessness; today, Joe and Josie Six-pack are back at work by the millions, but with middle managers getting the squeeze, you never heard such popu-lib anguish.

3. What is good for the economy is good for the stock market. Contrary to the current market mantra, good news is not bad news.

Try this for long-term insight: Only good news is good news.

And only bad news — unemployment, recession, red ink, bankruptcies plunging earnings multiples — is bad news.

4. Main Street Is Wall Street. Who do you suppose profits most when stocks go up? Pension funds, which are the employees' assets, and mutual funds, which are owned by marvelous hordes of workers. Many union funds are putting heat on companies whose stock they own to increase profits and increase the value of those workers' investments.

Soon the Social Security retirement fund will invest in broad indexes of companies, seeking far higher historic returns than available from government bonds, thereby reducing the tax take from workers. The owners of America are the American people.

5. The tail should not wag the dog. Sure, it's humiliating to be laid off before retirement age. The human impact of staying competitive is undeniable, though smart managers seeking the value of loyalty ameliorate it. And new laws to make health insurance portable will help.

But the sacrifice of the relative few in these prosperous times benefits the many. The alternative government meddling — would interfere with job creation.

Rather than join the popu-lits in whipping up the fear of being fired and urging government-backed vengeance for the supposedly victimized, free-enterprisers should exhort each other to act as individual survivalists — improving our performance, finding security in making our services more valuable as we get older.

6. Success is to be emulated, not envied. Professional resenters on the right and left are demonizing good executives and making achievement a dirty word.

Owners, employees and consumers should want their companies to attract the best managers, the better to compete with other enterprises here and abroad, and competitive compensation tied to performance is often a wise investment. No salary is "obscene" when its recipient turns around a failing enterprise.

Boy, will I get mail on this one.

The New York Times.

A Historian's Lament for a War's Forgotten History

By Bob Herbert

NEW YORK — "I woke up," said William Manchester, the eminent historian and biographer, "feeling like a Sherman tank had run over me, driven by General Patton."

Five hours of open heart surgery will do that to you. It was a dismal way to spend Christmas Eve. When the patient came to,

MEANWHILE

he found himself monitored in the quiet of the intensive care unit by computers with eerily twinkling lights. Through the almost unbearable pain came ironic thoughts of "Silent Night."

As a Marine veteran who was seriously wounded on Okinawa, it's not surprising that Mr. Manchester used the image of an onrushing tank to illustrate his distress. The wartime metaphor came naturally. In a recent phone conversation (he's in Longboat Key, Florida), he talked, among other things, about the extent to which most people, and especially young people, are oblivious to the flesh-and-blood reality of World War II.

The most salient images of the war, now more than half a century old, have always come from Hollywood. Combat as entertainment. The New York Post once illustrated an article about General Patton with a photograph of George C. Scott.

"After the war," said Mr. Manchester, "I went with another ex-Marine to see John Wayne in the 'Sands of Iwo Jima.' The manager had to ask us to leave the theater because we couldn't stop laughing. It was so bogus. When

someone was shot and killed, it looked as though he went to sleep. He just laid down, inact."

Now even the movies are old. For millions of young Americans World War II is a barely discernible blur.

But here is Mr. Manchester with a story about a bullet that brings the reality of the war right into the 90s.

On June 5, 1945, William Manchester was a 23-year-old sergeant with a unit on Okinawa that was vulnerable to "screaming meemies," enemy artillery shells that shrieked when they were launched. He was in a courtyard near his best friend, Rip Thorpe, who was cooking breakfast. They heard the familiar shriek and then the shell landed in the center of the courtyard.

In his memoir of the war, "Goodbye, Darkness," Mr. Manchester wrote, "Rip's body absorbed most of the shock. It disintegrated, and his flesh, blood, brains, and intestines encompassed me. . . . My back and left side were pierced by chunks of shrapnel and fragments of Rip's bones."

Mr. Manchester was evacuated. Two months later the war was over.

Fast forward nearly 50 years to January 1994. Mr. Manchester feels chest pains. He has suffered, in his words, a "small heart attack, which was relieved by angioplasty." As doctors are studying X-rays of his heart, they discover an object two centimeters long in the right ventricle.

It is a bullet.



By A.M. on The Sun (Hahnemann) & L.A. Syndicate.

William Manchester apparently had been shot as he was unconscious on the ground after being blown up. Memories may fade and interest may wane, but history doesn't get more real than a bullet in the heart.

"During World War II there were 16 million of us in uniform," said Mr. Manchester. He noted that there were a million American casualties, and 400,000 "didn't come back."

"We were a special generation," he said. "After the war we got married and had children and we were America. And then, very, very slowly, over a period of half a century, it eroded."

It was not said sourly, but there was disappointment in his voice. Disappointment that the experiences and, yes, the wisdom of the elders are treated so cavalierly in a society that worships the young.

"There are certain experiences that everyone goes through," he said. "And if you're elderly, you know some of the pitfalls because you've fallen into them, and this is advice you can pass on."

Mr. Manchester is still in pain, and the bullet is still lodged in his heart, but the doctors say he is healing nicely. He will be 74 on April Fools' Day.

The New York Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Crying for Argentina

I am a native of Buenos Aires, a *porteño*, and I could not disagree more with the writer of "Don't Cry for Eva Perón (or Madonna), Argentina" (*Meanwhile*, Feb. 21).

For one thing, Juan Perón was not a fascist, but a nationalist. His wife, Eva, was an extraordinary woman, powerfully driven by resentment, who came from nowhere and went straight to the top, to the obvious discomfort of the ruling class. She gave Argentine women the right to vote and in a

few years radically changed her own image as well as the expectations of millions who admired her.

Secondly, the main thrust of the author's attacks on Argentina stems from the Nazis' seeking a home there after World War II. This was inexcusable and an affront to the memory of the forsaken victims of the Holocaust. But in fairness, we should also remember that Argentina has one of the largest Jewish communities in Latin America, and that many writers, journalists, politicians, comedians, scientists and or-

dinary people from that community contribute daily to the development of Argentine culture.

It would be good to point out that Argentina was not certainly the only country to admit former Nazis. Unfortunately, the list of countries in this category would be long and sad.

MARGARITA V. MacLAREN,
Paris.

Having left Argentina 20 years ago with a feeling that the country couldn't find

itself, I watch in sadness that Argentines still prefer to argue superficial issues like the casting of Madonna as Eva Perón instead of confronting the mistakes of the past and learning from them. The farce that was Juan Perón's government, not just in the 50's, but also in the 70's when he came back, belongs to Hollywood. One day the Argentines will realize that to win international respect they have to start respecting themselves.

ADRIANA KAPPELLER,
Oslo.

BOOKS

THE MIDDLE HEART

By Bette Bao Lord. 370 pages. \$25. Knopf.

Reviewed by Carolyn See

THIRTY years ago, the New Yorker published one of its many landmark cartoons: A little boy is being put to bed by his doting father, a Dizzy Gillespie look-alike with beret, shades and goatee. The kid, wanting to put off the last good night, pleads, "Tell me one more time, Daddy, how jazz came up the river from New Orleans."

Tell me one more time, Bette Bao Lord, how three irrepressible survivors, two men and one woman (and both men destined to be in love with that same woman) grew up in early 20th-century China, lived through World War II, found themselves in a Communist regime, lived through "Let One Hundred Flowers Bloom" and "The Great Leap Forward," and on into the really terrible years of the Cultural Revolution and — in this book — the debacle of Tiananmen Square.

I'm not complaining. It's one of the great stories of the world, and it can't be told often enough for Sinophiles who love this material, where fact really is stranger than fantasy, where the world is so fascinating, beautiful and absolutely repellent that fiction can't enhance it, but only repeat it, turning history into myth.

The three characters here are Steel Hope, Mountain Pine and Firecrackers.

Steel Hope is the son of the second wife of Stone Guardian, but really the son of a servant girl. Steel Hope is unloved by his father and clueless about who his mother is.

The family, though in decline, has had a moderately glorious past. Mountain Pine, that servant girl's crippled brother, will grow up to be Steel Hope's "bookmate," his tutor and moral mentor.

Firecrackers is a gravekeeper's daughter who finds it expedient to disguise herself as a boy. In pre-World War II China, they're just children and still speak in flowery, Pearl Buck ways, as when they comment upon the sporadically raiding Japanese: "To Brown Dwarfs, a dead Chinese means less than a dung fly."

Despite the disparities of class and prosperity, the three swear to be loyal to one another, but Firecrackers's father dies and she's sent away.

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• C. Jon Delogu, who teaches at the University of Toulouse-Le Mirail, is reading "Cultural Capital: The Question of Literary Canon Formation" by John Guillory.

The author interestingly displaces loud debates about the Western canon by inscribing them within a general history of the regulation of the practices of reading and writing.

(JHT)

You can bet they'll all see one another again.

Flash forward to early World War II. The two young men are in Chungking, where they have helped to bring the country's valuable libraries inland. (This material is tricky for the Chinese novelist: What side are you going to be on? The "valiant" but totally corrupt Chiang Kai-shek or the people up north who have lots of fun and high ideals but happen to be loathsome Communists?)

Tell me one more time, Dad, how the heroes get from Chungking to Yenan, and why? Lord does this in a very ingenious manner, in a way that keeps her heroes from having to think about politics.

What about Firecrackers,

whom we last saw trudging down the river on the way to nowhere? Since women in China are notoriously unimportant, how can the author give her both a high profile and a vivid identity? By making her an opera singer on a showboat! Then a fortune-teller advises her to go to Chungking! Why not? Again, the real events of the time completely eclipse any contrived fictional craziness. When the three meet again and both men fall for Firecrackers (now called Summer Wishes), it seems fairly inevitable.

Soon the war is over, the Communists rule, Summer Wishes is pregnant, it looks like one hero is dead, and the other marries her. By 1949 we find that Steel Hope has become a cold and unfeeling

party official. Mountain Pine, because he is an intellectual, gets imprisoned, and things go from bad to worse. By 1966, in the throes of the Cultural Revolution, Loyalty, the son of Summer Wishes, has to turn in his father. Summer Wishes must revise her husband again and again in public ceremonies. Loyalty, also, is inevitably arrested and hauled off to the hinterlands to a work camp.

By 1971, we're on Page 299 and have to cover 18 years in a hurry. Lord resorts to fragments. She has to get Loyalty married so that he can have a daughter, Cinders. She has to deal with her first three characters, get them out of various prisons. She has to deplore the regime while extolling the people she writes about.

It might be nice if the author had an opinion about all of this. We know her opinion if we've read "Legacies," her nonfiction oral history of recent days in China, but what about these characters? They survive — that's about all we know.

It's a wonderful story, but too weird to be understood or believed. Maybe that's why we need to hear it over and over again.

Carolyn See reviews books regularly for The Washington Post.

CHESS

By Robert Byrne

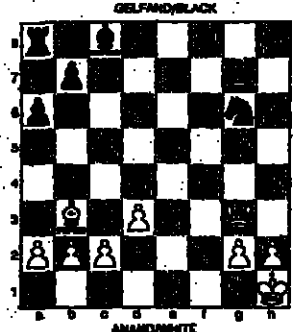
VISWANATHAN Anand was in good form for this game with grandmaster Boris Gelfand.

The 2 Nc3, 3 f4 attack is a version of a Closed Sicilian. White's strategy after 5 Be4 is to play for a mating attack in the middle game.

Anand started his attack with 8 Qe1.

Anand's 10 e5! was hard for him to commit to, but the gambit could not be accepted at once with 10...d1 11 f6 Ne5 12 Ne5 Qd4 13 Be3 Qe5 because 14 Ne4! created a promising attack. For example, 14...b6 15 c3 Nd5 16 Bf2 Qe7 17 Bd5 ed 18 Nd6 Kd8 19 Bg3 would win for Anand.

After Anand offered a pawn sacrifice with 12 Ne4!, Gelfand had to take it or else let a knight into d6 or f6. He could have played 12...d1 13 f6 Ne5 14 Ne5 Be5, yet after 15 Bf4! Bf4 16 Rf4 Qe7 17 Nf6 Kf8 18 Qf2, White has good attacking



chances; for example, 18...Kg7 19 Rf1 Rf8 20 Ne8! ends the struggle.

After 15 Rf1, the answer to 15...O-O would have been 16 Bh6! Bh6 17 Nf6 Kh8 18 Qe5 with a powerful attacking formation.

With 15...g5, Gelfand offered to return his extra pawn to 16 Ne5, but Anand pressed for the attack with 16 Qg3 O-O 17 Bg3! hg 18 Ng5, threatening 19 Qh4. After 18...Ng6 19 Rae1 Qe7 20 Rf5!, Anand threatened 21 Qh3.

Gelfand tried to hang on with 20...Bf6, but Anand hit with 21 Ne6! After 21...Jc2 Re6!, Gelfand could not play 22...Be6 because 23 Qg6 Bg7 24 Be6 Kh8 25 Rh5 is fatal.

So Gelfand gave his queen, with 22...Kg7 23 Re7 Be7, for a rook and two minor pieces, but after 24 Rf8 Bf8, Anand struck with 25 h4!

Thus, 25...Kh7 26 Qf3 Bd6 27 Qf7 Kh6 28 Bd5 Bg4 29 Be4 Bh5 30 g4 Rf8 falls into 31 g5 mate. And 26...Bg7 27 Qh5 Bh6 28 g4 will win a piece. Also, 26...Bh6 27 g4 Nh4 28 Qf7 Bg7 29 Qh5 Bh6 30 Qh4 picks up one piece and will get another with 31 g5. So Gelfand gave up.

White: Anand Black: Gelfand

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. Bb5 Bc6 4. Bxc6 dxc6 5. Be3 Be7 6. f4 f5 7. g3 g6 8. Qe1 Qd8 9. Bf2 Bg7 10. e5 11. f6 Ne5 12. Ne5 Qd4 13. Be3 Qe5 14. Ne4! 15. Rf1 16. Bh6! 17. Nf6 Kh8 18. Qe5 19. Rae1 Qe7 20. Rf5! 21. Qh3 22. Kg7 23. Re7 Be7 24. Rf8 Bf8 25. h4 26. Qf3 Bd6 27. Qf7 Kh6 28. Bd5 Bg4 29. Be4 Bh5 30. g4 Rf8 31. g5 32. Qh4 33. Qh5 34. Qh6 35. Qh7 36. Qh8 37. Qh9 38. Qh10 39. Qh11 40. Qh12 41. Qh13 42. Qh14 43. Qh15 44. Qh16 45. Qh17 46. Qh18 47. Qh19 48. Qh20 49. Qh21 50. Qh22 51. Qh23 52. Qh24 53. Qh25 54. Qh26 55. Qh27 56. Qh28 57. Qh29 58. Qh30 59. Qh31 60. Qh32 61. Qh33 62. Qh34 63. Qh35 64. Qh36 65. Qh37 66. Qh38 67. Qh39 68. Qh40 69. Qh41 70. Qh42 71. Qh43 72. Qh44 73. Qh45 74. Qh46 75. Qh47 76. Qh48 77. Qh49 78. Qh50 79. Qh51 80. Qh52 81. Qh53 82. Qh54 83. Qh55 84. Qh56 85. Qh57 86. Qh58 87. Qh59 88. Qh60 89. Qh61 90. Qh62 91. Qh63 92. Qh64 93. Qh65 94. Qh66 95. Qh67 96. Qh68 97. Qh69 98. Qh70 99. Qh71 100. Qh72 101. Qh73 102. Qh74 103. Qh75 104. Qh76 105. Qh77 106. Qh78 107. 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MILAN FASHION



Gianfranco Ferré



Dolce & Gabbana



Gucci



Jil Sander



Missoni



Fendi

Attention! Long and Lean Coats

MILAN — The forward march of the coat was the bugle blast of the Milan season. The slim-line knee-length coat, replacing the jacket, was the strongest trend — especially at Gucci where coat-pants-shirt in a single color combo was the look. All designers majoring in tailoring cut a mean coat. Giorgio Armani's was thrown a curve at the waist; Jil Sander's was arrow-straight. Shoulders were never square, but small and taut, or rounded and raglan. Versace added epaulets in his instant line, reinforcing the military message

that also brought back the tailored cape (at Gucci and Valentino's Oliver). The maxi coat is also back — part of the army uniform influence and also of 1970s retro. Missoni's magic-carpet coats in knit and woven pattern saluted the return of print — seen too in Dolce & Gabbana's floral 1950s duster coats that bucked the general skinny trend. The swing coat is mostly out, for designers from Armani through Gianfranco Ferré are thinking long and lean.

Suzy Menkes

Cut to the Thirtysomethings

By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — This is the big moment for fashion's thirtysomethings. A new generation of designers is taking over the calendar of the ready-to-wear fall/winter shows, which opened Monday.

The arrival of hip designers at old established houses, and a government-backed push to promote fresh French designers are the twin elements of the Paris collections. And the two ideas are not unconnected. For it is mostly foreign blood that is coursing through the veins of dowager houses.

The English John Galiano, 35, shows Saturday his first ready-to-wear collection for Givenchy, after his couture debut in January; and Brazilian Ocimar Versolato is the new creator at Lanvin. Grès has appointed the young French designer Frédéric Molénac, 30. And the Austrian Helmut Lang, 39, has been approached by Balenciaga — although both sides are keeping mum about it.

All those designers are also showing their own-label collections — proof that there is not enough hot talent to go round.

Other houses fielding new designers are Cerruti, which has American designer Narciso Rodriguez, 35, who was formerly a designer at Anne Klein and Calvin Klein. Christophe Lebourg, 33, (an ex-assistant of Claude Montana and of Yohji Yamamoto, and a collaborator of retailer Joseph), has gone to Rodier, which will show on March 19.

Add to these names, two dozen upcoming designers showing on and off runway, including the American Steven Slowik and Eric Bergère. They are both 35, both in their second seasons and both produce the polished, simple modern clothes that are coming to define 1990s style.

Who among these saplings will be the mighty oaks of the future — the Karl Lagerfelds or Yves Saint Laurents of their generation? Aah! Who indeed?

The situation today is similar to 1973, when new-generation designers were challenging haute couture.

At that period, a new structure for ready-to-wear designers was put in place by Pierre Bergé of Yves Saint Laurent (who then led the avant-garde) and Jacques Mouclier, now president of French fashion's ruling body. The founding members in 1973 were Chloé (where Lagerfeld was the designer), Dorothee Bis, Emmanuelle Khanh,

Kenzo and Sonia Rykiel. Only some of these designers went on to become international companies or household names.

The same situation is likely to apply to the new, informal grouping Mouclier has established for 30 young designers that he has sifted as the seed corn of fashion's future.

"I realized that most of the so-called 'young designers' were actually aged 45 to 55," says Mouclier. "We have to find

PARIS FASHION

someone new, so I did some research, looked in the press, and I identified new young creators and went to see them. Of those, perhaps seven have the potential to come through."

Realizing the problems of developing a new label because of lack of investment, he appealed to the Ministry of Industry. Five million francs (about \$1 million) is to be divided between fledgling companies.

Two designers are then picked each season for a subsidized show at the Carrousel du Louvre. This season, they are Christophe Rouxel and Richard Voinnet.

Rouxel, 29, who was trained as a naval tailor and worked for two seasons with Yves Saint Laurent on haute couture, has a prime slot Friday before Lagerfeld's show. He says that he is interested primarily in cut and fit and "because fashion shows are dead, I will present salon-style and concentrate on clothing rather than fashion."

The Swiss-born Voinnet, 27, who shows Tuesday, worked with Yohji Yamamoto when he came to Paris in 1989, then with Oliver Lapidus, and focuses on fit and construction, rather than decoration.

Mouclier's criterion is that the designers promoted by the Chambre Syndicale must be Paris-based. For the agenda is to promote French designers.

Having encouraged the world's talent to gravitate to Paris, France is now facing the fact that in the international fashion world, no country has a monopoly position.

Significantly, the shows at the Carrousel du Louvre were opened Monday by Jin Teok from South Korea, who ran through what are likely to be the trends of the season: military tailoring, hippie retro, cyberspace futurism and modern treatment of lace.

She was followed by Molénac, whose resolutely futuristic fabrics like rubberized gabardine and Lycra satin were cut

into complex shapes. His dolman sleeve, joined to the torso, and evening drapes showed why he has been hired for Grès.

Versolato's test is to see whether he can develop his signature couture-style evening clothes, which he will show Wednesday, into a fuller daytime range for the Lanvin show Sunday. In brief, he may need to be more French and forget his Brazilian-Italian origins.

"But I hate all clichés about Brazil!" he exclaims. "It is just that I am not frightened of showing a woman's body."

After spending three years with bandage-style dress designer Hervé Léger, Versolato concentrated on evening clothes for his own label because of financial constraints. At Lanvin's early years, admiring both the sporty freshness and the decorative femininity.

"I want to create an osmosis between the spirit of Lanvin and my personal talent — and to make the most of Lanvin's savoir-faire," he says.

If Lang were to become the designer for Balenciaga (and two other Paris-based designers have also been approached) he would take over from Dutch Josephus Mulichowski Thimister, 33, a minimalist designer who has worked at Karl Lagerfeld and Jean Patou. Thimister says that he has tried to create for the house "an aura of modernity" and to concentrate on pure lines and fine fabrics.

LANG is not discussing any putative takeover as a couture designer. But he admits he is now giving up his work as a teacher for a fashion course in Vienna because "my other activities are getting too strong."

How important is that college training? Most of fashion's young hopefuls have been to fashion school in France or elsewhere. But Lang is not convinced that this is the secret of success.

"Think how many people there are today without a regular training and how they find their own way," says Lang.

"It is difficult to say what is the right way to do it. I think it depends on where you go and who is teaching you."

Lang, with his hip outlook, may have hit on the inhibiting factor in French fashion that no teaching or money can supply.

"What is missing is a certain kind of underground — not just in fashion, but in music," he says. "An underground is always necessary to push things forward."



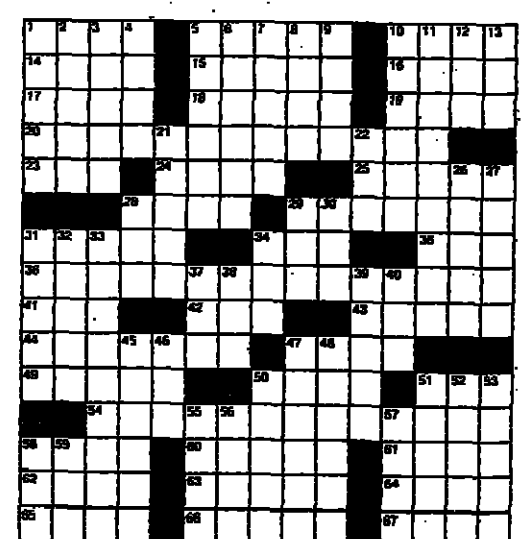
Eric Bergère with curvy suit from his fall line; Ocimar Versolato with Lanvin sportswear in cashmere.



CROSSWORD

ACROSS
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14 Pro —
15 Stopped in one's tracks
16 Beaded
17 "Magical Mystery"
17 Prince William's school
18 British strand
19 Hick
20 Type of sonnet
21 J.F.K. jet
24 Avant-garde rocker Lou
25 Bill addition
26 Part of a B.A.
28 "Fraser" setting
31 Top-notch
34 Conger
35 Luftwaffe foe: Abbr.
36 Hiking danger
41 Kimono sash
42 Corporal punishment, with "the"
43 Cowboy at roundup
44 Troughs
47 Stockholm sedan
49 Brace (onset)
50 Horse feed
51 Boston baseball legend Williams
54 Crap shoot
58 Heartthrob actor Pit
60 Set free
61 Love, in Oviedo
62 Film director Clair
63 Outboard motor's locale
64 Part
66 Cheeses
67 Sharpens
67 Spock's voyage
3 Summer emine
4 American
5 Compensate
6 Complains
7 Like oak leaves
8 Pound of poetry
9 Bambi, e.g.
10 Manner's passage
11 Here to there to here
12 Not the sleekest ship
13 "Odds" —
14 Swashbuckler Flynn
22 One for the history books
23 Gladden
27 Direct elsewhere
28 Chy.
29 Coral
30 Cousin of the moose
31 They're full of dates
32 Morocco's capital
33 Traveling salesman
34 Curians, with "the"
37 Blow it
38 —
39 De-chalk
40 Brig's buddy in old films
45 Hollow rocks
46 Building wing
47 Juvenal's genre
48 Acropolis locale
50 Frequently
51 Indonesian island
52 Paris's — des Beaux-Arts
53 Bo of "10" lame

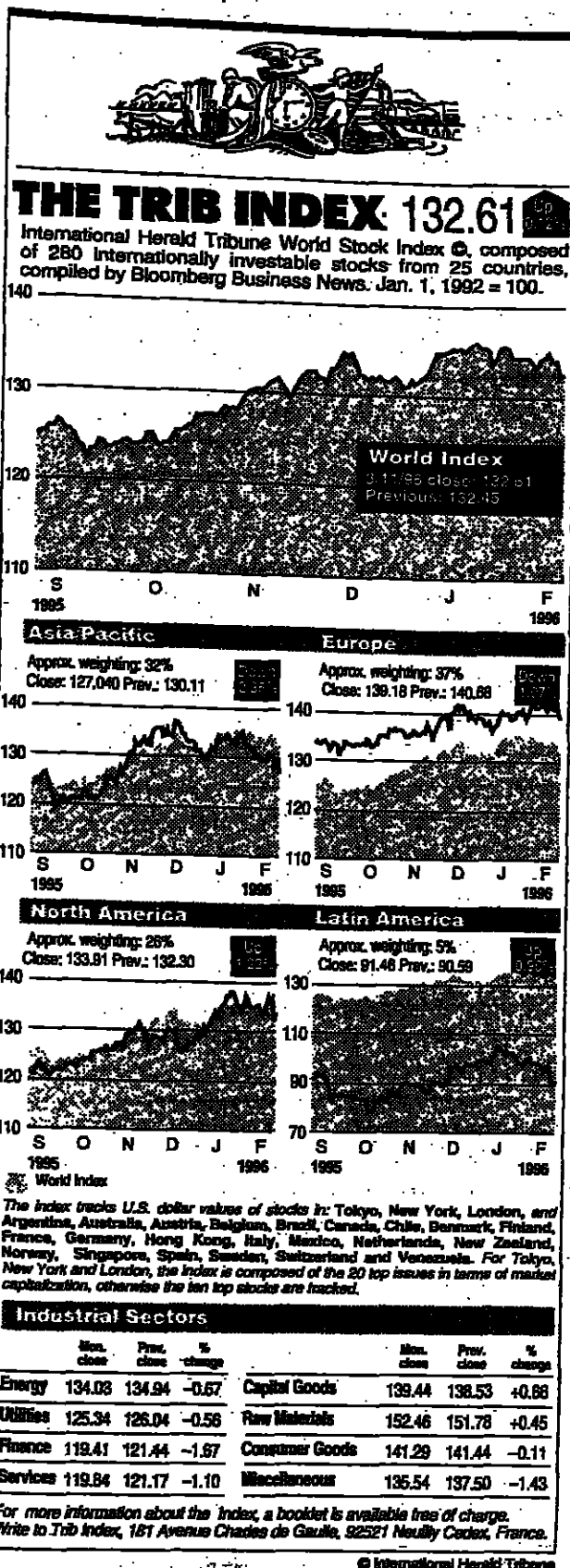


65 Opulent
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Solution to Puzzle of March 11

SLAT HEAT STARK
TALE OLLA ARNIE
AMON ALMS LANGE
FASTBREAK ADEAL
FISHES SAME
VIRAL LIFERS
LEAFY ARID ASEA
ARIA AGENA MUTE
LONI GENT DRAPE
ASTRAL TOTO
TRUE ECOLES
LITRE BREAKFAST
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EU Strives to Lift Confidence But Finance Ministers Present No Fresh Solutions

By Tom Buurkle
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — Seeking to bolster confidence in Europe in the face of rising unemployment at home and rising interest rates across the Atlantic, European finance ministers on Monday discounted the risk of recession and predicted a solid recovery in the second half of this year.

The ministers had no fresh solutions for the crisis of confidence gripping Europe's consumers and investors, however. Instead, they insisted that there was no alternative to their current strategy of cutting government deficits and red tape and making labor markets more flexible.

"We have to commit ourselves to structural reforms," Jean Arthuis, the French finance minister, said. "We need to reduce deficits by controlling public spending."

Lamberto Dini, the Italian prime minister and finance minister who presided at the meeting, said, "There is no intention to move away from the process of budgetary consolidation."

Mr. Dini said the sharp rise in U.S. interest rates after last week's reported surge in employment should not provoke a corresponding increase in European rates. That is crucial because Europe's main hope for a revival of confidence and economic activity rests upon rates remaining at their current levels or falling further, according to the annual economic report of the European Commission that ministers reviewed Monday.

European rates "should remain stable, not go up," Mr. Dini said.

In a separate move that underlined the strength of Europe's economic-policy orthodoxy, a German-led group of ministers moved to block the only classic stimulus proposal now on the table.

A plan by the European Commission, the EU executive body, to spend an extra 1.7 billion European currency units (\$2.2 billion) on cross-border road and rail projects and research is "unacceptable" at a time of painful budget cutbacks in national capitals, according to a declaration put forward by Germany's state secretary for international affairs, Jürgen Starke.

"Decisions on additional community expenditure would be counterproductive and not in line with the pursued budgetary objectives, not only because 1997 is the decisive year for the fulfillment of the convergence criteria for the member states but also given the need for budgetary discipline in the medium term," the declaration said.

The German initiative was endorsed by all of the EU's other main budget contributors, including Britain, France, the Netherlands, Sweden and Austria.

Despite the rebuff, Economics Commissioner Yves-Thibault de Silguy said the EU executive would press ahead with the idea, putting it to a vote within the commission March 20 and presenting the plan to EU leaders at a summit meeting in Turin on March 29.

Mr. de Silguy said the proposal was "entirely in line with the conclusions" of several summit meetings of EU leaders, who have consistently declared the road and rail projects to be among their top priorities.

"The commission definitely intends to maintain its proposals," he said.

Japan Bailout Displeases the U.S.

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — C. Fred Bergsten, director of the Institute for International Economics based in Washington, said Monday that the United States was unsatisfied with the way Japan had dealt with its bad-loan problem, particularly the 8.1 trillion yen (\$76.59 billion) debt crisis involving the housing loan companies, known as *jusen*.

"The U.S. does not support this *jusen*-bailout scheme," said Mr. Bergsten, adding that the U.S. ambassador to Japan, Walter F. Mondale, had authorized him to make such comments.

Embassy officials could not be reached for comment on Mr. Bergsten's remarks. The economist has close ties with the White

House, and his views have matched those of the U.S. government in the past.

But a Finance Ministry official, who declined to be identified, responded that the Japanese government was confident it had U.S. support for its plan to use taxpayers' money to help shut down seven insolvent housing loan companies.

Mr. Bergsten said Japan needed to make "a much clearer explanation" of the scope of the bad-loan crisis and carry out "a comprehensive program to deal with all parts of" the problem.

"Japan's financial system problem is much bigger than the *jusen* part of it," said Mr. Bergsten.

The plan to liquidate the housing lenders is being closely watched

worldwide as a sign of how effectively Japan is dealing with its debt crisis.

Mr. Bergsten also said the dollar might fall below 100 yen and "well into the 90s within the next few weeks or months."

"I think the yen has remained at its current level of about 105 to the dollar only because of a series of very artificial and temporary factors," he said.

Among the "artificial and temporary factors" that have driven up the U.S. currency have been dollar purchases by major central banks, he added. The Bank of Japan, the U.S. Federal Reserve, the Bundesbank and the Swiss National Bank have purchased dollars in recent months.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Rolls-Royce Joins GE to Launch New Military Jet Engine

LONDON — Rolls-Royce PLC and General Electric Co. of the United States said Monday they would jointly develop a jet engine to compete for a \$90 billion program to build a new military strike aircraft for the United States and Britain.

The rival jet engine makers added that the joint venture could be expanded to cover other potential military programs. But they noted that the venture would not cover the civil jet aircraft business in which GE and Rolls have been rivals since 1987.

The alliance touched off speculation in London that it was only the first of a series that would emerge among Rolls, GE and United Technology Corp.'s Pratt & Whitney that would be designed to shoulder heavy development costs.

"People have learned the hard way that it's no longer viable for three companies to independently spend \$5 billion developing a new engine," said Barnaby Wiener, an analyst with Credit Lyonnais.

The GE-Rolls venture is the first alliance between the companies since they dissolved a partnership to make engines for the popular Boeing 757 aircraft in 1987. Rolls-Royce decided at that time to pursue development of the engine now used to power Boeing Co.'s latest jet, the 777, while GE made a rival engine.

Rolls and GE will make a new engine for the United States' Joint Attack Strike Technology program to develop a short-take-off-and-landing jet like the Harrier jump jet made by British Aerospace PLC.

Rolls-Royce makes Pegasus engines to power the Harrier.

The Joint Attack Strike program is the biggest aircraft purchase contemplated. The Pentagon and the British Defense Ministry envision purchasing about 3,000 of the aircraft for about \$30 million apiece.

The fighters are expected to fulfill various military needs early in the next century and Rolls-Royce added that there would be "considerable additional export potential."

Rolls-Royce said its experience in making Harrier engines would advance its chances of winning the competition with Pratt & Whitney to build the jet's engine.

The GE alliance grew out of Allison Engine Co., which had been working with GE on engines for the jet. From 1993 to 1995, Rolls and GE conducted joint studies on lift-fan propulsion systems that has now been combined into the new plans.

Rolls-Royce said that under the agreement, GE would act as lead systems integrator but added that "it is intended to form a new business arrangement between the three companies within the next few years."

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Russia Tells Phone Firms To Sign On

Agence France-Presse

MOSCOW — Russia gave an ultimatum Monday to three Western companies selected to modernize the Russian telephone system, ordering them to confirm their commitments to the project before the end of the month.

Officials of the Telecommunications Ministry, quoted in the Russian press, said they had written to the consortium consisting of U.S. West Inc., France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom to warn it to "activate" its participation in the project — known as 50x50 — before the end of March. The companies declined to comment.

The project, announced in October 1994 and set to last for a decade, calls for connecting 50 of the largest Russian cities with an optical fiber network and replacing analog lines with digital ones.

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

Italy and Britain: On Different Paths

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Why don't the European Union's third- and fourth-ranking powers get together as a counterweight to the top two? Calls for a British-Italian effort to balance the dominant French-German partnership have come and gone over the years, to little avail.

Now, however, with key decisions fast approaching on the EU's planned single currency, the economic interests of Britain and Italy seem closer than ever.

Neither country is likely to join the "hard core" of countries led by France and Germany that will probably decide to go ahead with the single currency in just two years — Britain by choice, Italy because its economic performance will not make the grade.

Both countries have prospered from big devaluations that followed their eviction from the European exchange-rate mechanism in the currency crisis of 1992; and for both, the relationship they negotiate with the "hard core" countries will be vital to their future role in Europe.

Unlike Britain, Italy has long been a strongly pro-European country. Now, however, in the run-up to national elections April 21, Italy's bipartisan support for Europe is in danger for the first time since the 1970s, according to Marta Dassu, director of the Center

for the Study of International Politics in Rome, who spoke at a conference convened by four leading American and Italian foreign-policy groups in Washington over the weekend.

Italy's political lineup is now mildly reminiscent of Britain's, with the center-right increasingly Euroskeptical while the center-left wants Italy to qualify for the single currency as soon as possible.

But the left-right distinction is blurred by Italian business's enthusiasm for the single currency, while labor unions are reluctant to make the necessary sacrifices.

At least among the elite, a passionate debate is raging over whether Italy should assert its national interests more aggressively — also a common theme in Britain.

The debate is complicated by an equally heated, and related, argument over whether the Italian Constitution should be changed to allow the direct election of a strong French-style national leader — a sensitive issue in view of Italy's fascist past.

Ms. Dassu says a new Italian government, of whatever stripe, may decide to ally itself with Britain in negotiations over future links between members of the single currency and those left out.

The outcome will be crucial to whether Italy remains committed to Europe — indeed, according to some alarmist voices, to whether Italy remains a single nation or splits apart.

But any British-Italian alliance will be only tactical and temporary. It could be no more. The fact is that despite Italy's growing Euroskepticism, the two countries remain diametrically opposed in their instinctive attitudes to Europe.

Italy will preside at the opening session of the EU's constitutional reform conference in Turin this month, with Rome hoping to advance European integration via such means as increased majority voting and more power for the European Parliament — ideas that are anathema to Britain.

Instead of tinkering with its constitution, the EU should be trying to become more competitive through deregulation and freer trade, according to Bill Stow, a British official who addressed a meeting organized by the Transatlantic Futures group in Washington last week. Many Britons mistakenly believe that an integrated Europe will, almost of necessity, be overregulated.

Most sensible Italians would rightly regard that as a big fallacy. In the words of Riccardo Perissich, a former senior EU official now with Pirelli, "nothing in economic and monetary union prevents us from deregulating and restructuring our economies."

Even if the Euroskeptics gain ascendancy in Italy, they are more likely to want to slow the pace of integration than to halt it. Italy remains too positive about Europe to ally itself with Britain for very long.

Most off-the-rack investment solutions belong here!



CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES												
March 11												
Cross Rates				Eurocurrency Deposits				March 11				
\$	£	D.M.	FR.	ITL	¥	S.F.	CS.	Franc	Swiss	French	Yen	ECU
Australian	1.08	0.68	1.08	0.68	1.08	0.68	1.08	0.68	1.08	0.68	1.08	0.68
British	0.78	0.48	0.78	0.48	0.78	0.48	0.78	0.48	0.78	0.48	0.78	0.48
Canadian	0.72	0.42	0.72	0.42	0.72	0.42	0.72	0.42	0.72	0.42	0.72	0.42
French	1.66	1.00	1.66	1.00	1.66	1.00	1.66	1.00	1.66	1.00	1.66	1.00
German	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84
Italian	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84
Japanese	160.00	96.00	160.00	96.00	160.00	96.00	160.00	96.00	160.00	96.00	160.00	96.00
Portuguese	200.00	120.00	200.00	120.00	200.00	120.00	200.00	120.00	200.00	120.00	200.00	120.00
Spanish	166.67	100.00	166.67	100.00	166.67	100.00	166.67	100.00	166.67	100.00	166.67	100.00
Swedish	136.00	81.60	136.00	81.60	136.00	81.60	136.00	81.60	136.00	81.60	136.00	81.60
Swiss	1.48	0.91	1.48	0.91	1.48	0.91	1.48	0.91	1.48	0.91	1.48	0.91
Thai	50.00	30.00	50.00	30.00	50.00	30.00	50.00	30.00	50.00	30.00	50.00	30.00
Turkish	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84	1.36	0.84
U.S.	1.00	0.60	1.00	0.60	1.00	0.60	1.00	0.60	1.00	0.60	1.00	0.60
Yen	160.00	96.00	160.00	96.00	160.00	96.00	160.00	96.00	160.00	96.00	160.00	96.00
Source: Reuters, London Stock Exchange, Bank of Tokyo, Royal Bank of Canada, Reuters, New York, and Tokyo.												
Rates applicable to 1-month deposits of \$1 million minimum (or equivalent).												
Money Rates												
United States	Canada	France	Britain	Germany	Italy	Japan	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	Belgium	Netherlands	
Discount rate	5.00	5.00	Bank base rate	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
Prime rate	8.00	8.00	Call money	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
3-month Treasury bill	6.75	6.75	3-month Treasury bill	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
6-month Treasury bill	6.50	6.50	6-month Treasury bill	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
9-month Treasury bill	6.25	6.25	9-month Treasury bill	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
1-year Treasury bill	6.00	6.00	1-year Treasury bill	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
3-month Treasury note	5.50	5.75	3-month Treasury note	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
6-month Treasury note	5.25	5.50	6-month Treasury note	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
9-month Treasury note	5.00	5.25	9-month Treasury note	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
1-year Treasury note	4.75	5.00	1-year Treasury note	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
3-month Treasury bond	4.50	4.75	3-month Treasury bond	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
6-month Treasury bond	4.25	4.50	6-month Treasury bond	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
9-month Treasury bond	4.00	4.25	9-month Treasury bond	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
1-year Treasury bond	3.75	4.00	1-year Treasury bond	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	
Source: Reuters, London Stock Exchange, Bank of Tokyo, Royal Bank of Canada, Reuters, New York, and Tokyo.												
Rates applicable to 1-month deposits of \$1 million minimum (or equivalent).												
Forward Rates												
Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	
Australian	1.08	1.08	1.08	Japanese yen	160.00	160.00	160.00	Portuguese \$	200.00	200.00	200.00	
British	0.78	0.78	0.78	French F	1.66	1.66	1.66	Spanish P	166.67	166.67	166.67	
Canadian	0.72	0.72	0.72	German M	1.36	1.36	1.36	Swedish K	136.00	136.00	136.00	
French	1.66	1.66	1.66	Italian L	1.36	1.36	1.36	Swiss F	1.48	1.48	1.48	
German	1.36	1.36	1.36	Portuguese \$	200.00	200.00	200.00	Thai B	50.00	50.00	50.00	
Italian	1.36	1.36	1.36	Spanish P	166.67	166.67	166.67	Turkish L	1.36	1.36	1.36	
Japanese	160.00	160.00	160.00	Swedish K	136.00	136.00	136.00	U.S. \$	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Portuguese	200.00	200.00	200.00	Swiss F	1.48	1.48	1.48	Yen	160.00	160.00	160.00	
Spanish	166.67	166.67	166.67	Thai B	50.00	50.00	50.00					
Swedish	136.00	136.00	136.00	Turkish L	1.36	1.36	1.36					
Swiss	1.48	1.48	1.48	U.S. \$	1.00	1.00	1.00					
Thai	50.00	50.00	50.00	Yen	160.00	160.00	160.00					
Turkish	1.36	1.36	1.36									
U.S.	1.00	1.00	1.00									
Yen	160.00	160.00	160.00									
Source: Reuters, London Stock Exchange, Bank of Tokyo, Royal Bank of Canada, Reuters, New York, and Tokyo.												

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Commerzbank Says It Owes 10 Million DM In Back Taxes

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
FRANKFURT — Commerzbank AG said Monday it owed just 10 million Deutsche marks (\$6.8 million) in additional taxes for 1984-88, rebutting a report in the weekly magazine Der Spiegel that said the bank had underreported its income by "hundreds of millions" of marks.

Commerzbank said the article in Der Spiegel was "false in crucial points" and conveyed a "misleading impression."

The bank said it had filed documents to correct tax reports that had mistakenly included risk provisions for loans to foreign countries made by its subsidiaries outside Germany. The mistake was due in part to changes in the tax code in recent years, Commerzbank said.

Commerzbank said it had discovered the discrepancy during an audit of tax returns for 1984-92 and had called it to the attention of tax authorities.

The bank said it would be protected from criminal penalties because it had applied to amend its tax reports voluntarily.

The bank is exploring whether tax secrecy laws were breached when a letter from its management board to authorities was released to the media, a spokesman said.

But he said the bank was not considering legal action against Der Spiegel.

Commerzbank said it had paid 4.7 billion DM in taxes in 1985-94. The bank said neither its auditor, Coopers & Lybrand, nor its tax adviser was legally responsible for the error.

(Bloomberg, AFP)
■ German Output Rises
German industrial output rose a seasonally adjusted 1.6 percent in January from December and was 1.6 percent higher than in January 1994, AFX News reported from Bonn, citing a statement from the Economics Ministry.

The ministry also revised the December figure to show a decline of 1.1 percent from November, compared with an originally reported rise of 0.6 percent.

The ministry added that a downward revision in the January data could not be ruled out.

The government also said wholesale sales in January were unchanged in both real and nominal terms from a year earlier.

Oman to Cut Pipeline Stake 50% Interest in Caspian Line Will Be Offered

Bloomberg Business News

MOSCOW — Russia, Kazakhstan and Oman will offer a half interest in a proposed \$1.2 billion pipeline to oil companies after the countries failed to get financing themselves.

The move could give Chevron Corp. more muscle in its efforts to secure a role in a 1,500-kilometer (930-mile) pipeline it probably will need to exploit its \$10 billion investment in the Tengiz oil field in Kazakhstan, near the Caspian Sea.

For more than two years, Chevron has refused to bankroll the project because Oman was to get a one-third stake without paying a third of the costs. Oman has now agreed to take about a 10 percent interest in the Caspian Pipeline Consortium that it organized.

Chevron officials in Moscow and in Almaty, Kazakhstan, could not be reached for comment.

Edward M. Smith, the consortium's general director, said that apart from Chevron, the Western companies interested in participating included Mobil Corp. and Atlantic Richfield Co. of the United States, British Gas PLC and Italy's Agip SpA.

Possible Russian partners include AO Lukoil, one of that nation's biggest oil companies, RAO Transneft, its biggest pipeline operator, and RAO Rosneft, Mr. Smith said.

Talks with representatives of all the companies have been held and are to continue Friday in London, Mr. Smith said.

He said it was "conceivable" operations could begin in late 1998 or 1999, depending on financing. Oman has agreed to reduce its shareholding to "about 10 percent," Mr. Smith said, with Russia and Kazakhstan contributing such assets as pipelines and pumping stations to bring the government-owned part of the consortium to 50 percent.

Like Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan must develop new pipelines because existing facilities cannot handle all the oil that companies hope to pump from the country's vast reserves.

Oman, a Gulf sultanate, was among the first to organize a pipeline project, securing support from Kazakhstan and Russia, which is the location of the Black Sea port where the pipeline would deliver crude oil for export by tanker.

The Caspian Pipeline Consortium failed to get Chevron's backing and decided a year ago to go it alone. But the consortium could not get financing on its own either, in part because Russia refused to provide what it considered satisfactory export guarantees.

Oman had promised its partners that financing would be in place by last October for the first phase of the project, a 250-kilometer section in Russia that could cost as much as \$400 million.

Chevron eventually hopes to produce as much as 700,000 barrels of oil a day from the Tengiz field. Restrictions on the Russian pipeline network used by Tengiz allow output of only 40,000 barrels a day.

Brittan Calls For Telecom Accord Soon

Reuters

BRUSSELS — Sir Leon Brittan, trade commissioner of the European Union, raised the pressure a notch Monday in a campaign to piece together a world telecommunications liberalization deal before the end of April.

"It is hard to exaggerate the importance of an agreement in the World Trade Organization to open up telecommunications," Sir Leon said in a speech to business leaders.

"It will speed up economic development in the countries that are currently maintaining unnecessary barriers, and it will provide major opportunities for those seeking to enter markets that have up to now been effectively closed."

A European Commission spokesman, describing the EU's offer on the table in Geneva as "arguably the most liberal offer so far," urged the 50 or so nations involved to either make or improve their liberalization offers.

"It is time to up the pressure on everybody in order to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion," the spokesman said. "We are approaching the end game."

Trade sources said that Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Hong Kong, Singapore, Argentina, Colombia, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia had yet to make offers and that there was room for much improvement in the offers from South Korea and Japan.

The commission spokesman expressed surprise that the United States recently had included the European Union on a list of negotiators whose liberalization offers it deemed unsatisfactory.

■ France Telecom Gets Nudge

An official report written for the French government calls for the sale of a part of France Telecom at the start of 1997, according to the daily Le Monde.

The newspaper published extracts from a report written by a French senator, Gerard Larcher, that is due to be officially published Wednesday and in which he recommended that the government sell a minority stake in France Telecom at the beginning of 1997.

"We can not wait indefinitely," he wrote. "At the end of 1996 at the latest, the law changes about which we have been talking for three years have to be adopted."

De Benedetti's Company Sells Stake

Bloomberg Business News

MILAN — Cofide SpA, a holding company controlled by Olivetti SpA's chairman, Carlo De Benedetti, said Monday that Banca del Gottardo had acquired a 10.03 percent stake on behalf of the Italian financier Luigi Giribaldi.

Mr. Giribaldi acquired the stake as an investment through the Swiss bank's Monaco branch, Cofide said. The acquisition was reported last month by Banca del Gottardo's Monte Carlo office. Financial details were not disclosed.

Cofide is the holding company for all the De Benedetti businesses, including Olivetti, the French car-parts maker Valeo SA, the machinery maker Sasib SpA and Sogefi SpA, an Italian maker of car parts. Olivetti raised about \$1.4 billion in a rights issue in December to raise money for restructuring and to pay debt.

Mr. De Benedetti and his family control 40 percent of Cofide, which owns a 44 percent share in Compagnie Industriale Riunite SpA. Ri-

unite in turn controls 15 percent of Olivetti.

■ Grim Outlook for Alitalia

Alitalia SpA's managing director, Domenico Cempella, said he expected the airline to post a first-quarter loss of 280 billion lire (\$179.3 million), compared with a loss of 110 billion lire a year earlier, AFX News reported from Rome.

Mr. Cempella did not specify whether the figures represented a net or a pretax loss.

Swiss Re Looks to Asia to Grow

Reuters

SINGAPORE — Swiss Reinsurance Co., one of the world's major reinsurers, said Monday that it would invest heavily to increase its presence in Asia's booming insurance markets.

"We are prepared to invest in Asia quite a bit of money to achieve this closeness to the local markets,"

Hermann Hefti, head of the company's Asia-Pacific department, said in a speech to business leaders. He refused to give projections for the investment but said the company, which had total assets of 42.5 billion Swiss francs (\$35.3 billion), had a "very strong capital base."

Mr. Hefti said the Zurich-based company aimed to derive 25 percent

of its gross premium income from Asia by 2000, compared with 10.4 percent in 1994, the most recent year for which figures were available.

He said the direct insurance business in Asia would grow by an average of 10 percent a year until 2005, compared with an average worldwide growth rate of 3.8 percent in that business.

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40
2800	3800	2100
2500	3700	2000
2400	3600	1900
2300	3500	1800
2200	3400	1700
2100	3300	1600
1995	1995	1995
Exchange Index	Monday Close	Friday Close
Amsterdam EOE	587.50	514.25
Brussels Stock Exchange	5,916.00	5,900.00
Frankfurt DAX	2,407.74	2,400.00
Gopenhagen Stock Market	388.25	385.00
Helsinki HEX Generali	1,222.75	1,195.15
Oslo OBX	628.50	620.00
London FTSE 100	3,674.50	3,700.00
Madrid Stock Exchange	327.94	326.71
Milano MIBTEL	9,438.80	9,585.00
Paris CAC 40	1,988.00	1,970.00
Stockholm SX 16	1,886.00	1,880.00
Vienna ATX	1,841.50	1,820.00
Zurich SPI	2,243.00	2,270.00

Source: Reuters

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• CNBC, a cable television financial channel and a unit of the American network NBC, began broadcasting in Europe on a 24-hour-a-day basis five days a week.

• Lafarge SA's 1995 net profit rose 5 percent, to 2.35 billion French francs (\$464.4 million), as increased earnings at its U.S. unit offset slow growth in other mature economies and an increase in raw-materials costs.

• Fokker NV plans to file for bankruptcy, possibly this week, for Fokker Holding NV and its aircraft business. The plane-maker is nearing the end of emergency funds received this year from the Dutch government and has been scrambling to find a foreign buyer.

• Cable & Wireless PLC ended merger talks with its rival British Telecommunications PLC on creating what could have been the biggest telecommunications group in the world.

• France's consumer price index rose 0.4 percent in February from January and 2.0 percent from February 1995.

• Rodae, a joint venture between Daewoo Corp. of South Korea and Olcit SA of Romania, began full-scale production of Daewoo Cielo automobiles at a plant near Bucharest.

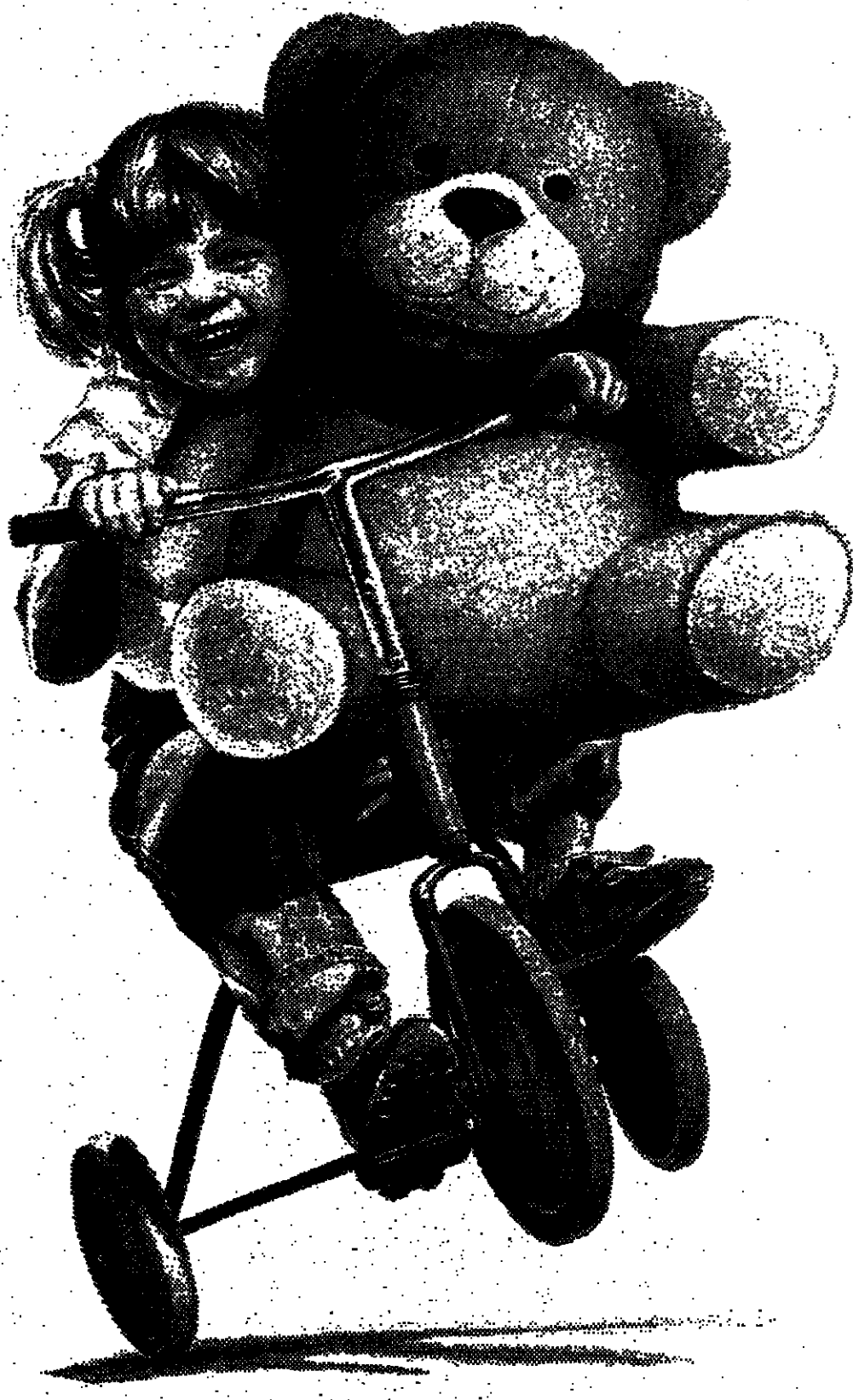
• Dunlop Slazenger became independent of its former owners in a £330 million (\$495 million) management buy-out from the industrial conglomerate BTR PLC.

• BET PLC predicted a 27.5 percent dividend increase for the 1996 financial year, and it recommended its shareholders reject a hostile £1.8 billion bid from Rentokil PLC.

• Britain's industrial output fell 0.5 percent in January because of reduced output by utility companies. But manufacturing output rose 0.3 percent.

• Akai Electric France SA's 480 workers at a factory in Honfleur walked off the job to protest a reported plan to fire as many as 180 of them.

AP, Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP



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The Associated Press.

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12 Month High Low Stock	Div	Yld	PE	52 Wk High Low Last Crs				
				High	Low	Last	Crs	Chg
4616 17 1/2 17 1								

12 Month		3 Month		1 Month		5 Day		1 Day		1 Hour		1 Minute		1 Second		1 Millisecond		1 Microsecond		1 Nanosecond		1 Picosecond		1 Femtosecond		1 Attosecond		1 Zeptosecond		1 Yoctosecond		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 Pe		1 Ee		1 Ze		1 Ye		1 Xa		1 Yb		1 Zc		1 Jd		1 Ke		1 Me		1 Ne		1 Se		1 Te		1 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Monday's 4 p.m. Close
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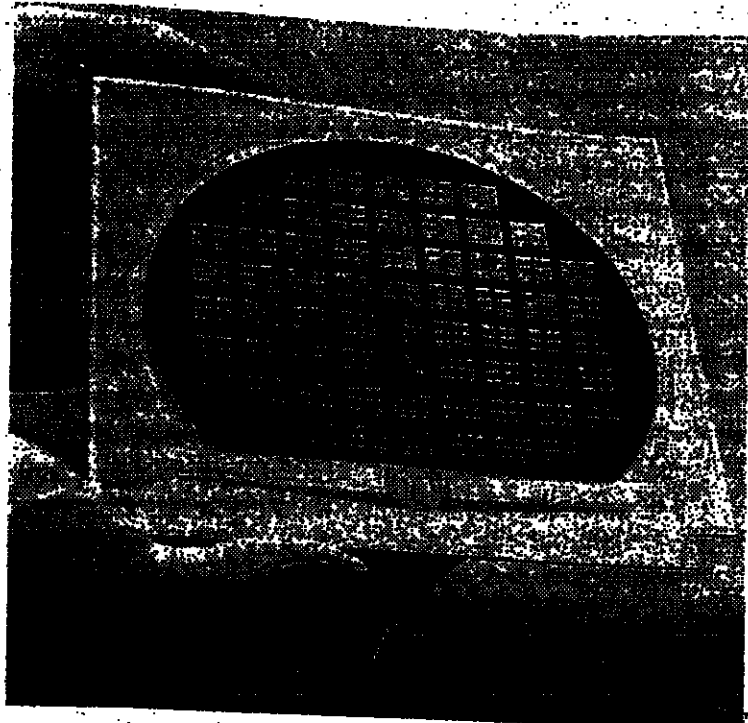
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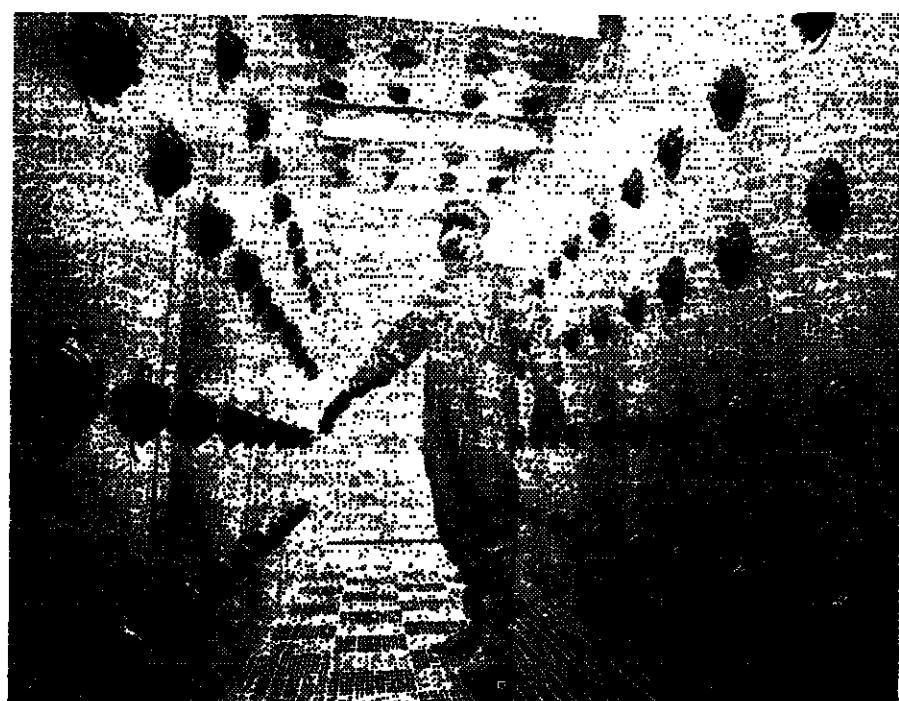
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A sophisticated wafer fabrication facility at HISEE manufactures high density memory devices for Hitachi's European customers.



Air Shower at HISEE.

Hitachi currently operates in over 15 European countries. We have manufacturing units in places as far apart as Wales, Germany, Italy, Spain, and France: making everything from semi-conductors, computer disk storage sub-systems, monitors, audio and video tapes and TV's, to air-conditioning, power tools and construction machinery.

In addition our Advanced Software Centre in the UK is developing object-orientated software for today's commercial systems. In Germany, Hitachi Semiconductor (Europe) GmbH (HISEE)

began the testing and assembly of wafers in 1980 and in 1992 began the transition to integrated production with the completion of a new fabrication plant.

The manufacture of computer products in

Europe is centred in France where Hitachi Computer Products (Europe) S.A. (HICEF)

began production of disk drives and controllers in 1992.

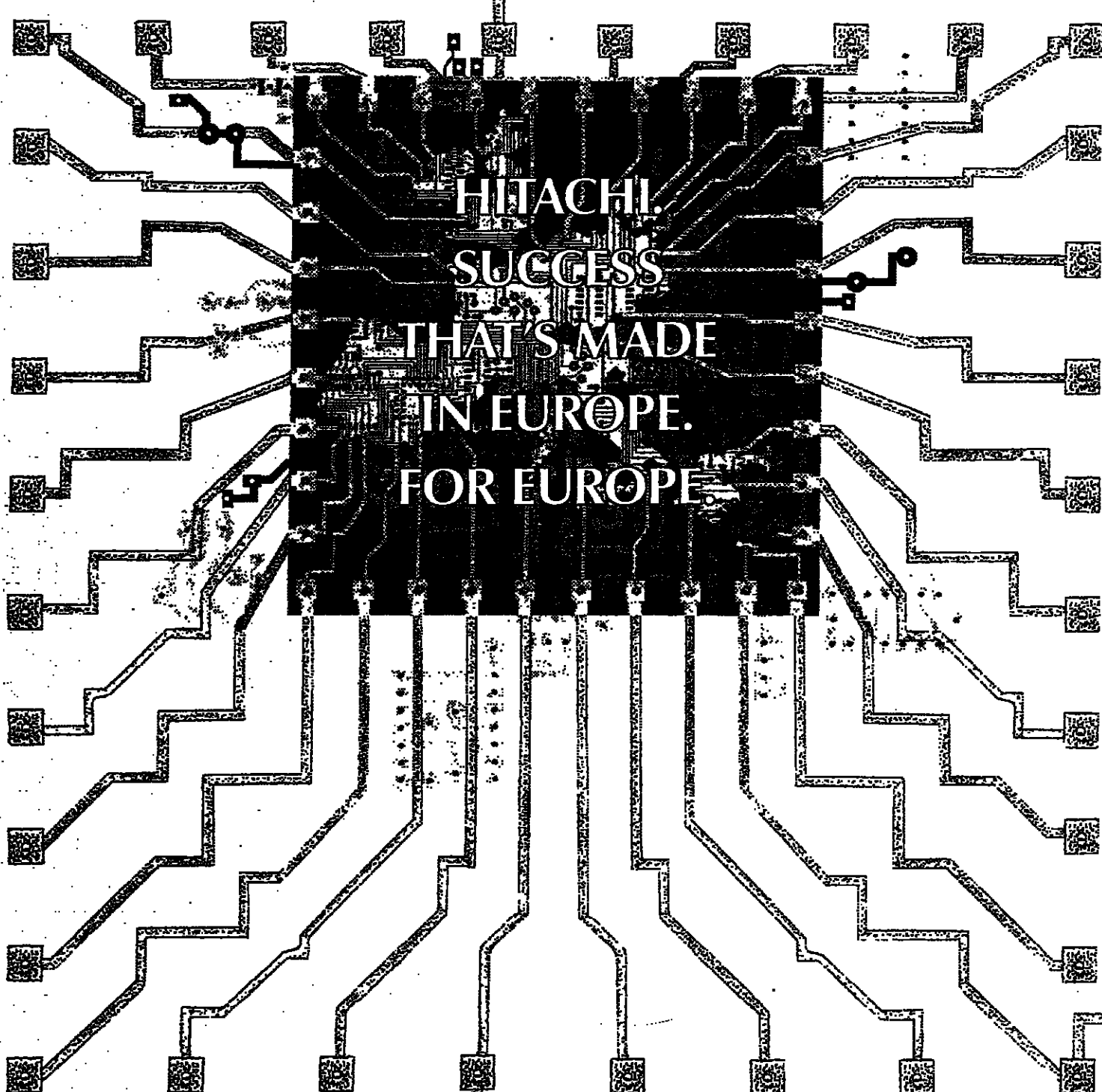
We're a major supplier of computer chips to some European computer companies whose names you'll be very familiar with. Indeed, to meet the demand in

the European market, we have invested 30 billion Yen (\$280 million) in our semiconductor plant at HISEE to increase the production capacity of 16-megabit DRAMs and microprocessors.

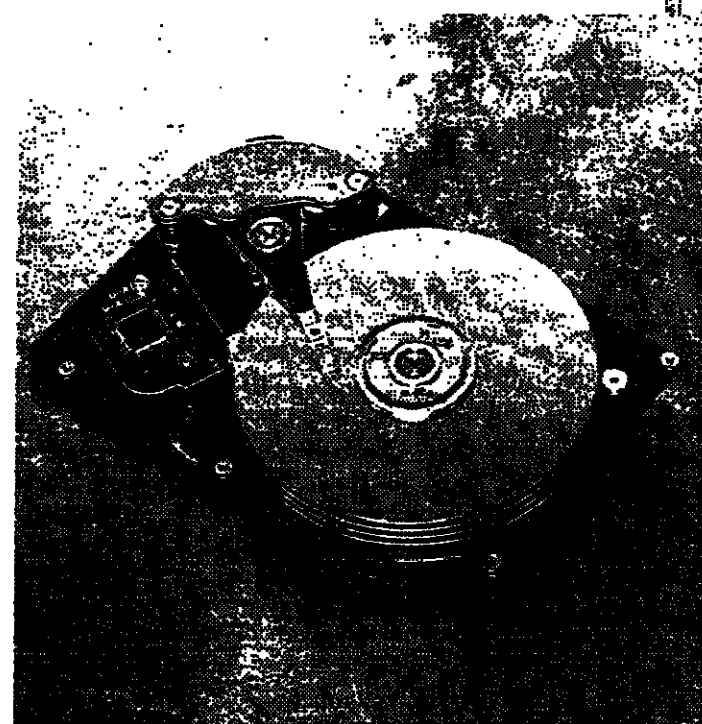
Our success has been built on the belief that the company must contribute to

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And now, as these and other exciting IT developments take shape, you'll know exactly who to put them down to.



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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

The International Herald Tribune iFAXFUNDS service is an instant response fax service bringing you fund information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from anywhere in the world.

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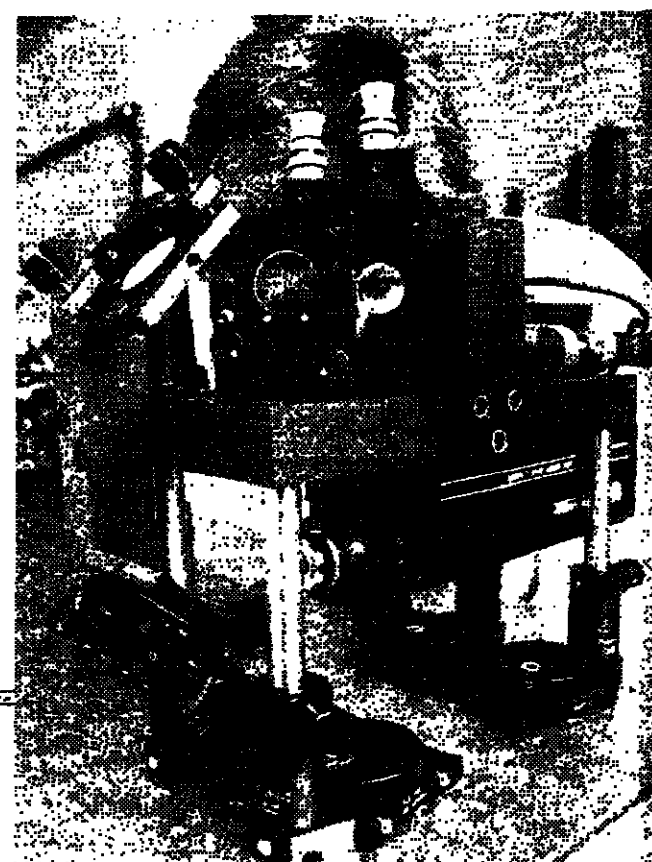
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هناك امتحان



A single electron memory system has paved the way for dramatic progress in the semiconductor industry.



A researcher inspects the helium-neon laser apparatus used to split laser light pulses at the Hitachi Cambridge Laboratory.

Hitachi. You're probably thinking of home electronics products. But take a closer look and you'll discover a company that's leading Europe in the development of advanced IT products and components – the unseen essentials that shape our daily lives.

phenomenon called 'coherent destruction' which we are now working to apply in superfast optical switching. Such switches will be needed to meet the future demand for

R & D is the

lifeblood of Hitachi's enterprise. Such is its importance that we allocate around \$15 million each day to creating and refining the products that will shape the future.

We have research and development centres in Cambridge and Dublin working on advanced electronic and optical devices and some stunning new projects in Artificial Intelligence. Design groups in Munich and Milan are bursting with innovative ideas to meet personal and social needs.

A team of scientists from Hitachi Europe's Cambridge

Laboratory working with Cambridge University's Cavendish Laboratory has succeeded in observing a new

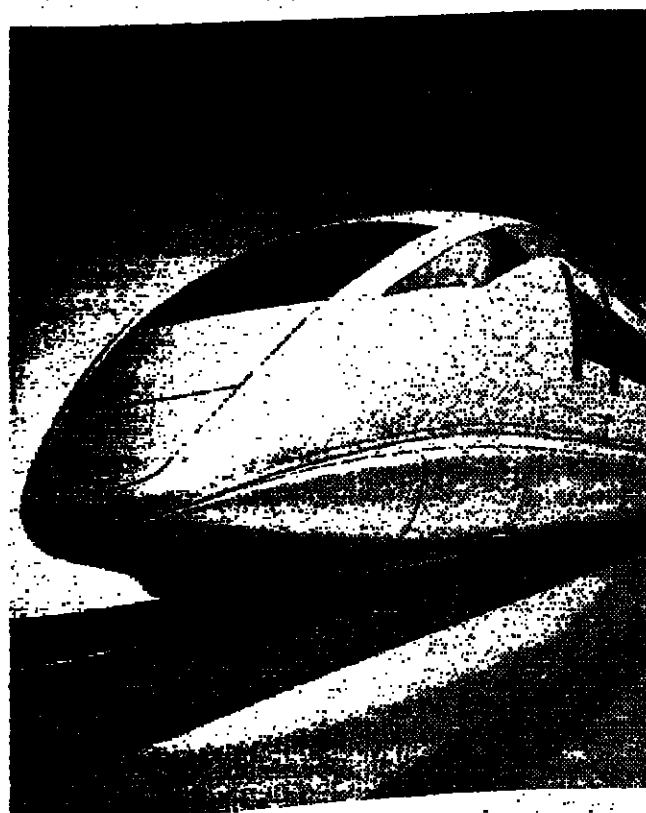
SOME OF TODAY'S
MOST EXCITING
I.T. DEVELOPMENTS
CAN BE
PUT DOWN
TO HITACHI.

new technologies that will utilise advanced networks, such as multimedia, interactive TV, videophone, visual e-mail and other forms of electronic data transfer.

Elsewhere Hitachi chip technology is at the heart of a new electronic cash system, the Mondex card, which is being tried out in Swindon, UK.

The card uses Hitachi microprocessors which meet strict requirements of high security and reliability.

Hitachi. The name may be Japanese, but as you'll see over the page our success has everything to do with what we're doing right here in Europe.



The first generation bullet train designed by Hitachi Design Groups in Europe.



Electronic wallet and Mondex card.

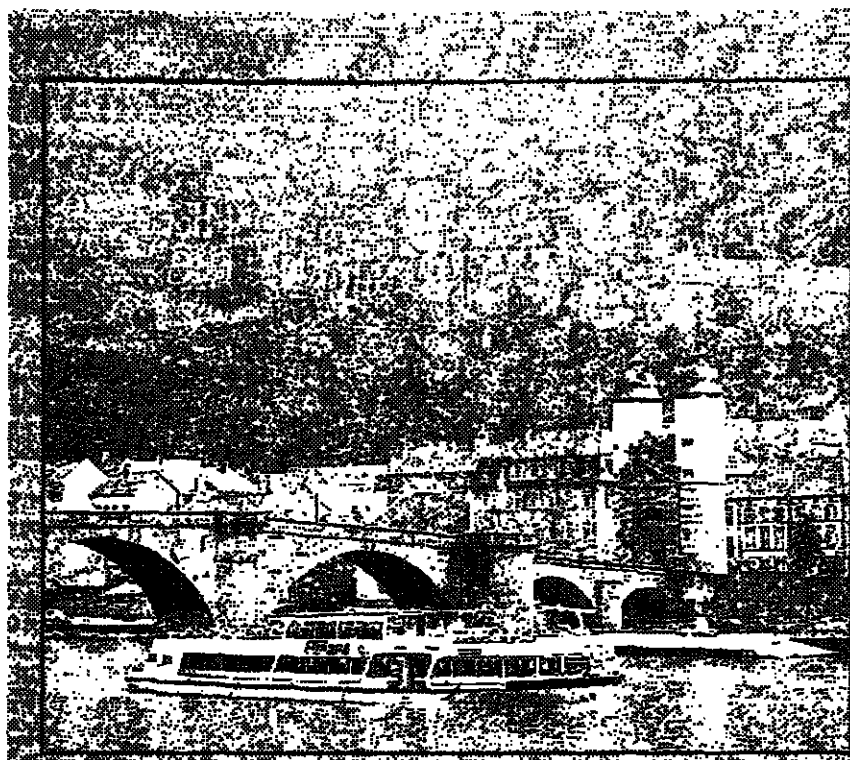
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Hitachi Europe Ltd., Whitebrook Park, Lower Cookham Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6YA, U.K.
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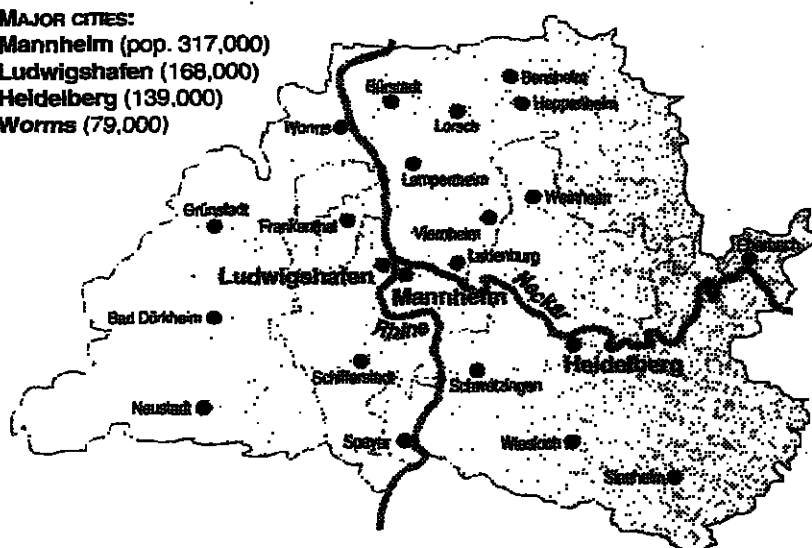
GERMANY

THE RHINE-NECKAR TRIANGLE



This German region takes its name from the confluence of the Rhine and Neckar rivers. The "triangle" refers to the border area where Baden-Württemberg, the Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse meet. Its major cities are Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Heidelberg and Worms, and it's a region in the heart of Germany.

MAJOR CITIES:
Mannheim (pop. 317,000)
Ludwigshafen (168,000)
Heidelberg (139,000)
Worms (79,000)



An Innovative Region

Technology centers
High-Tech Park, Mannheim
Mafinex Technology Center, Mannheim
Technology Center, Ludwigshafen
Technology Park, Heidelberg

Universities
Mannheim
Heidelberg

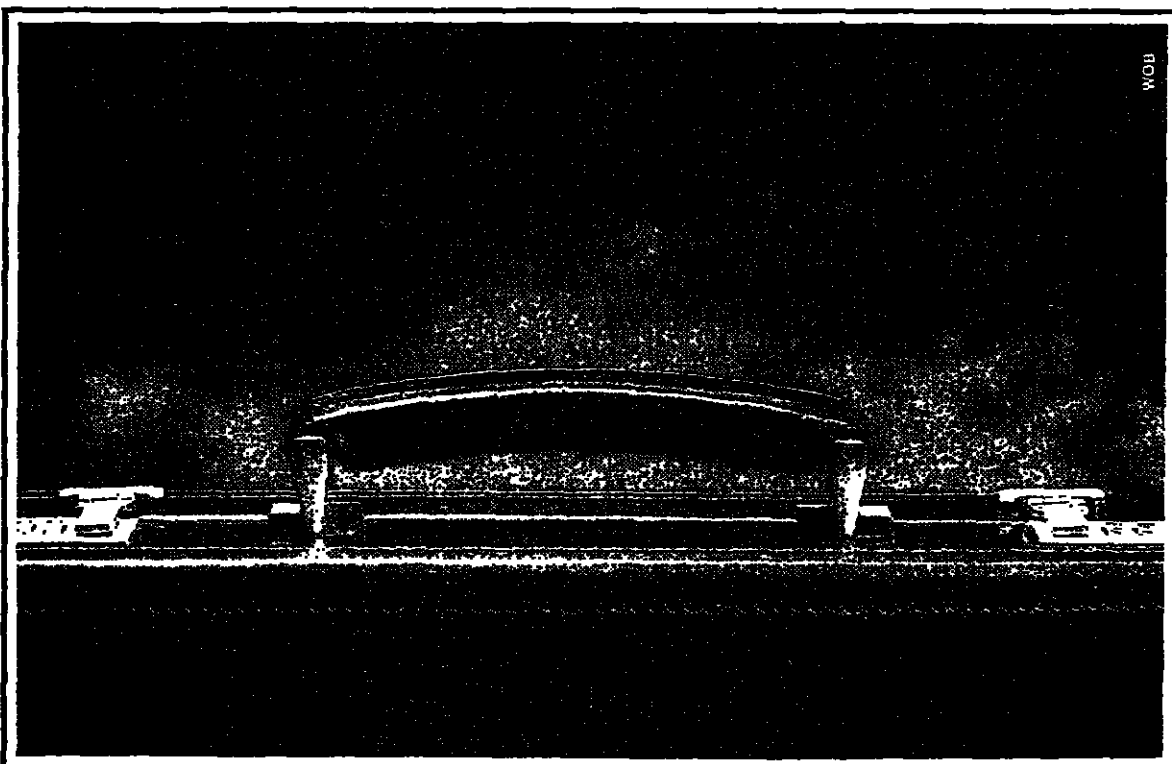
Polytechnic Institutes
Mannheim (4)
Ludwigshafen (2)
Speyer (1)
Worms (1)

Independent centers of basic and applied technological, social and economic research

Heidelberg (7)
Mannheim (10)
Ladenburg (1)
Dossenheim (1)
Neustadt (1)

Major corporate research and development centers
ABB, Heidelberg
SAP, Walldorf (Baden-Württemberg)
Freudenberg, Weinheim
IBM, Heidelberg
FRIATEC, Mannheim
BASF, Ludwigshafen
Knoll, Ludwigshafen
Boehringer Mannheim, Mannheim
Boehringer Ingelheim, Heidelberg

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A REGION AT THE CRUX OF CHANGE

The tristate Rhine-Neckar region is successfully creating an individual identity of its own.

While the Rhine-Neckar Triangle boasts many world-famous features, they diverge widely in character. This may be why their sum total - a thriving, densely packed region - doesn't always command the recognition of its individual parts.

The components are impressive enough. Heidelberg's historic inner city is one of Europe's great tourist attractions. BASF's facilities in Ludwigshafen form the largest single contiguous site of industrial production in the world. In the scant 20 kilometers (12 miles) separating Heidelberg's Schloss, or palace, from BASF's distillation towers are Mannheim, one of Germany's major commercial and cultural centers; idyllic medieval towns like Ladenburg; and the junction of two major waterways. The confluence of the Rhine and Neckar rivers, the site of one of the world's largest inland ports, has given the region its name.

A few kilometers to the west of Ludwigshafen is the largest wine-growing region in Germany: the Palatinate, whose name has become synonymous with high-quality wines and a low-key, rural lifestyle. Immediately northeast of Heidelberg is the Odenwald, one of Germany's largest and most rugged forests and a center for the country's wellness industry.

leave their home state, in which the stores, schools and factories are closed for a public holiday, and go to shop in another, nonobserving state (or country - France is a scant half-hour away), where businesses are open.

This anomalous situation is a product of Germany's strictly federal system, in which the observation of certain holidays rests with the individual states - as do matters of land use and development planning.

In the postwar era, this federalism increasingly proved out of step with the needs of a rapidly developing region. "As the region's individual centers grew, they grew together, abetted by the extension and expansion of the various infrastructural networks. Neither these emerging metropolitan areas nor the networks were great respecters of state boundaries," says Hans Joachim Bremme, head of public relations outreach and personnel information services at BASF.

Demand arose in the region for an entity capable of planning and acting for the Rhine-Neckar area as a whole. After years of discussion, the three state governments responded. They set up the Raumordnungsverband Rhein-Neckar in 1970, and gave it a sweeping brief: to help shape policies that would develop the region's economy and tourist industry as well as protect the region's rural lifestyle and environment from the excesses of that development.

While a region-wide planning authority for an integrated region might not sound very innovative or unusual, the Raumordnungsverband was very much an exception in Germany. Twenty-six years later, it still is.

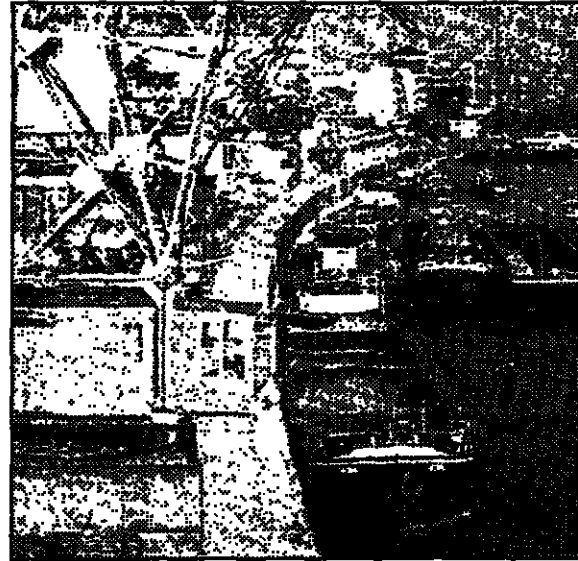
Over its first two decades of operation, the Raumordnungsverband fulfilled its brief, facilitating development by opening up internal borders. During this time, the need for a complementary element became apparent - one that would break down the region's main external barrier: lack of recognition by the outside world.

REPOSITIONING

"The Rhine-Neckar had greatly changed over the last 40 years," says Mr. Bremme. "The Rhine-Neckar had constituted itself as a region. Word on both these developments was simply not getting out."

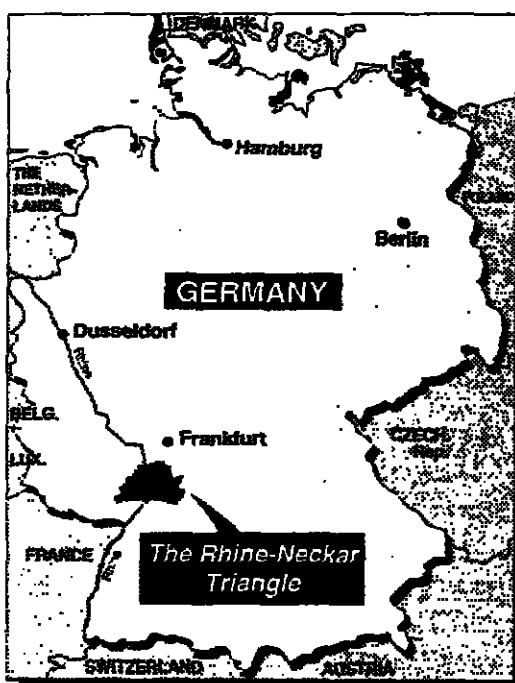
Remarks Mr. Vorreiter: "The result was that the rest of Germany had a very antiquated, somewhat schizoid image of this area - either all Old Heidelberg and the good old-fashioned Palatinate, or Dickschinken towns covered with soot. Outside Germany, this region often had no image at all."

To counter that, a number of the region's communities and companies founded the ARND in 1989. Since then, the new organization has steadily created ties between the region and the outside world. These links mainly take the form of information, not all of which is intended solely for external consumption. "To inform the outside world about our companies, lifestyles and communities, it was first necessary for us to conduct a very thorough inventory of the technological and cultural activities in the region," says Mr. Bremme. "The true depth and breadth of these resources proved a surprise to many people, even local residents." •



The Rhine-Neckar Triangle

Located at the confluence of two of Europe's major rivers, the Rhine-Neckar Triangle extends over 3,325 square kilometers and 11 districts in Baden-Württemberg, the Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse. The region is home to 1.9 million people and 60,000 companies, making it the seventh-largest metropolitan area in Germany.

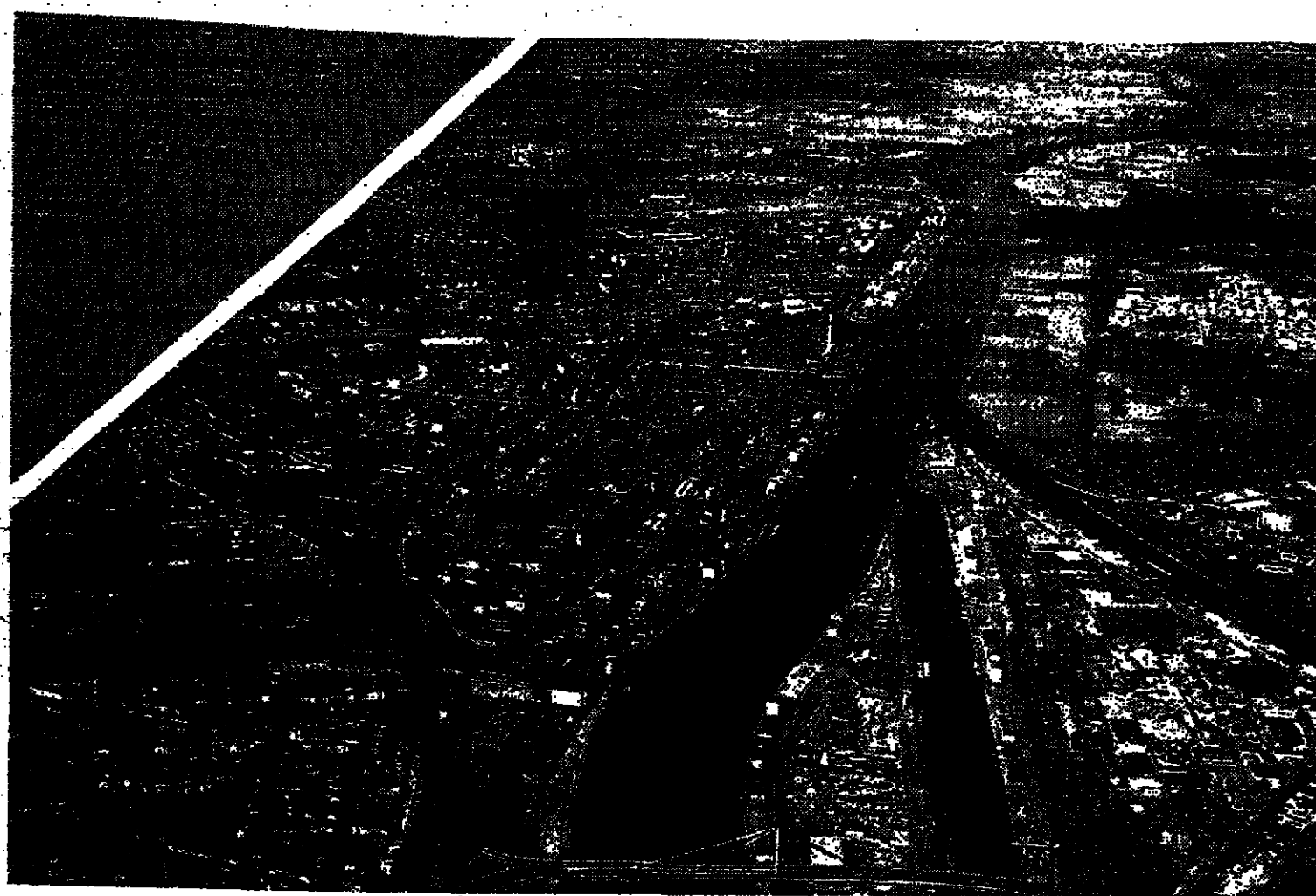


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WRITER: Terry Swartzberg is a business writer based in Munich.

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THE RHINE-NECKAR TRIANGLE



THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING IN-SOURCED

One company's operations show how important an integrated approach can be both for it and its environment.

Companies are busy sourcing operations out of their premises and, in high-cost Germany, out of the country. A current benchmark for companies is to in-source less than 25 percent of manufacturing.

This figure, however, is routinely two to three times higher in the Rhine-Neckar region. So why aren't the manufacturers in the Rhine-Neckar region moving with the times?

"We actually think we are moving with the times," says Jürgen Strube, chairman of the board of directors of BASF AG, one of the world's largest chemical companies. "In fact, we're probably successfully staying ahead of them, as a glance at our corporate results shows. One important factor helping us achieve this track record of growth and maximiz-

ing shareholder value has been that our production sites feature a very high level of internal integration. Ludwigshafen provides a prime example of how our individual, on-site production activities are interlinked and intermeshed."

Occupying seven square kilometers, BASF's 350 individual plants are "on-line," meaning that they take products from a nearby, upstream counterpart, process them, and then send them downstream to another counterpart. These transactions amount to 6.7 million tons a year.

MILLIONS AND BILLIONS

All told, some 15.2 million tons of raw materials arrive in and depart from Ludwigshafen every year — most at the company's own

Rhine-side port and at its on-premises rail stations. At its facility in Ludwigshafen, the company earns 19 billion Deutsche marks (\$13 billion) in turnover and employs 44,000 people.

Linking these factories and providing access throughout the site are 100 kilometers (62 miles) of streets, a rail network twice as long and a grid of pipelines 25 times that in length.

All told, BASF spends 1.1 billion DM a year on environmental protection systems and services at its site in Ludwigshafen. The money has gone to build one of the world's largest industrial sewage treatment plants and a number of other major facilities. This ongoing investment has produced impressive results: over the last decade, the amount of emissions released by BASF into the

local air and water has been more than halved. This performance has contributed to the noticeable improvement in the quality of air and water in the region.

Large though it is, Ludwigshafen is only one of BASF's 35 plants, accounting for just over 40 percent of the group's total turnover.

"Because we're committed to producing in the main markets in which we sell, as part of our 'whole world' strategy, that share will not grow in the years to come," says Mr. Strube. "If anything, it will decline. However, Ludwigshafen has played and will continue to play a central role in the BASF group. It is our major center of research and development. As our first and still-largest plant, it has served as a role model for all those that followed."

PRIZE-WINNING PRODUCTS, HOMEGROWN INGENUITY

Forward-looking companies and research institutes are thick on the ground.

The "Prize for Innovation" conferred annually by the German business weekly WirtschaftsWoche singles out the new product representing the greatest advance in its sector with the largest impact on society.

In 1995, this was Boehringer Mannheim's TROPT rapid heart-attack diagnosis strip. Using it, doctors on an emergency call can ascertain within three precious minutes — instead of six long hours — whether their patients have suffered heart attacks, and can do so without using cumbersome equipment or extensive procedures.

In addition to winning the prize, the TROPT strips have already achieved notable sales successes on the American and other major markets.

LOCAL HEROES

For the Rhine-Neckar region, Boehringer Mannheim's first place was doubly satisfying. Not only did a local company make good; the discovery around which the product was built was also made in the region. Professor Hugo Kaus of the University of Heidelberg had ascertained that a certain protein, which is only released into the bloodstream after a heart attack has occurred, is always subsequently tracked down by a specialized type of antibody.

Moreover, many of the substances and preparations used by Boehringer Mannheim's researchers in making this bioreaction identifiable and "portable" were developed by the Rhine-Neckar region's thriving, 40-company-strong biotechnology community.

Also gratifying for the region was the large number of other local companies receiving honorable mention in the competition. They included the largest of the region's many heavyweight transport engineering companies, the Mannheim-based ABB, and its "Variobahn" tram, lauded for the flexibility of its configuration and operation. Illustrating the growing strength of the Rhine-Neckar's environmental technologies sector, AquaProtect, also with headquarters in Mannheim, was cited for the efficiency of its system for revamping potable water supply grids.

The year before, it was the University of Mannheim's turn to make the headlines. Its "Synapse-1," jointly developed with Siemens, one of the region's major

employers, was hailed as "the world's fastest neurocomputer."

All told, the Rhine-Neckar region is home to nearly 100 corporate, independent and university-related research and development facilities. The Arbeitskreis Rhein-Neckar-Dreieck e.V. (ARND), the body coordinating region-wide promotion and endeavor, pegs the facilities' annual expenditures at 2.2 billion Deutsche marks (\$15 billion). A number of them, including Heidelberg's Cancer Research Center, have world-class standing.

Why this large number of R&D institutes in a region of less than 2 million people? "It's one of the beneficial effects of the region's lack of a single, dominant urban center and of our being a tri-state region," says Hans Joachim Bremme, head of public relations outreach and personnel information at BASF and chairman of ARND's board. "Each of our three states has devoted a great amount of resources to developing the business and technological communities found in its part of the Rhine-Neckar region."

Adds Hans Joachim Vorrehr, ARND's facilitator: "This friendly rivalry is also carried out on local and corporate levels. We have clusters of world-class companies in such sectors as chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Boehringer Mannheim, Boehringer Ingelheim, BASF and its Knoll subsidiary, Zeneca GmbH, Merck — to name but a few — all produce and develop in the region."

TECHNOLOGY CENTERS

Also engaged in developing products are the 70 companies now located in the Rhine-Neckar's four technology centers. They include such up-and-coming companies as Flintec GmbH, just five years old and already one of the world's leading providers of ultra-secure, computer-based voice recognition and command systems — the basis of electronic banking.

Hermstedt GmbH is one of the many local companies that has outgrown its original quarters in a technology center. The company's skyrocketing production of Macintosh-based connectivity equipment forced it to move into larger premises of its own. Companies like Flintec and Hermstedt don't have to look far for role models. SAP, a fast-growing star in worldwide software, has its headquarters in Walldorf, at the southern end of the Rhine-Neckar Triangle.

The Great Skills Shift

It's called the "skills shift," and it's very far along in Germany, where the percentage of workers without professional or academic qualifications has reached an all-time low. The reason the country's work force is constantly developing new skills and expertise is simple: Only highly qualified personnel can generate the productivity required to compensate for Germany's relatively high labor costs.

One example of the skills shift in action is provided by BASF Pharma, the globally operating pharmaceuticals subdivision of BASF AG. Knoll AG and its affiliates constitute the core of BASF Pharma, a major developer and producer of drugs and pharmaceutical application technologies in its own right, with esti-

mated sales of 3 billion Deutsche marks (\$2 billion) 1995.

Just under half of the 1,700 people working for BASF Pharma in Ludwigshafen are employed at its research and development facilities. The products they've developed include an extrusion technology increasing the effectiveness and control of the release of active ingredients in medications as well as treatment methods improving long-term life expectancies in heart-attack patients. The extrusion technology is based on an advanced melting procedure, to be further developed at the production facility in Ludwigshafen.

Knoll AG is one of the Rhine-Neckar region's oldest corporate citizens, having been founded in 1886.

MAJOR CLEARINGHOUSE FOR EUROPEAN CROSSROADS

Cars, trains, ships and especially freight — all pass easily through this area.

Mannheim is one of the few places in the world where a traveler doesn't need a train schedule. This is because of the frequency of express trains — one every five minutes during peak times — passing through the city's main train station, one of Europe's major junctions. Nor do motorists really need road maps, although they might want one from time to time. The Southern California-like maze of seven autobahns and their intersections splashed across the region provide them with too many routes, if anything, to take to their destinations.

A number of the region's highways and rail lines end at or alongside the Rhine. The Ludwigshafen-Mannheim twin-city area is also a major intersection for Europe's major inland waterway and the continent's rail and road grids. More than 17 million tons of freight are forwarded every year at the Rhine-Neckar inland port, Germany's second largest.

SPEEDING THE FLOW

Flourishing freight-forwarding and materials-processing sectors have sprung up in and around the port, featuring such well-known names as Unilever (which refines edible oils there), York International and Rheinstahl. These have fueled demand for new sites and facilities.

Hence the Ludwigshafen-South Freight-Forwarding Center project. Now in the planning stage, it features a good-

sized site of 63 hectares (155 acres), flexible zoning and immediate access to an economical and environmentally friendly source of energy as well as to the Rhine.

These are partially by-products of the transformation staged by Alcoa Chemie GmbH, a major freeholder on the site. Headed since 1982 by its energetic general manager, Horst H. Pohland, the German subsidiary of the American aluminum giant has been systematically reshaped into a high-performing, low-overhead manufacturer. In doing so, Alcoa has greatly reduced its consumption of steam and electricity (generated by a proprietary facility), curtailed its need for land and kept its payroll trim.

All this has been achieved by upgrading the company's range of products and through a major program of capital investment. Once primarily a refiner of bauxite, Alcoa Chemie GmbH today produces powders for aluminum oxide-based ceramics and other materials incorporated into high-performance spark plugs, rocket cones, chip supports and other components for the automobile, aerospace and electronics industries.

Proximity to Alcoa, to the neighboring Gullini Chemie GmbH and other potential customers and suppliers is just one of the site's assets. "The site has been zoned for uses ranging from classic freight-forwarding and express delivery services to assembly and light manufacturing," says Mr. Pohland. "That gives its future occupants a broad latitude of operation."

SMOOTHING THE WAY FOR BUSINESS START-UPS

The Triangle's chambers of commerce help young companies find a foothold — and do so both early and often.

Some 80 million Deutsche marks (\$55 million) from ABB for a new turbine factory in Mannheim. One hundred and sixty million DM from the same company for its new research and development center in Heidelberg. Hundred million-mark investments in Mannheim's power plants. Other major investment from Alcoa, BASF, Mercedes-Benz, Unilever and Heidelberger Druck.

This ongoing wave of reinvestment in the Rhine-Neckar region has been massive and effective, but large as it is, this reinvestment may not be the most important trend surfacing in the region's business community.

SIZES OF GROWTH

"We've seen the number of our member companies grow by a fifth over the last five years," says Professor Franz J. Luzius, managing director of the Rhine-Neckar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the statutory representa-

tive of the corporate community in Mannheim, Heidelberg and the rest of Baden-Württemberg's northwestern corner. "This net increase of some 8,000 new, often high-tech companies does, of course, eloquently testify to the region's sustained vitality. Equally important is the positive impact this influx is having on our local economy as a whole. We've found that each single-person start-up has produced five additional jobs after five years."

The chamber of commerce has joined with its counterparts in the Ludwigshafen and southern Hesse area in adapting their wide range of corporate information and consulting services to the start-up sector. Then, in a move typical of their activism, the chambers have taken these services to their potential customers.

"We don't have the time to passively wait for would-be entrepreneurs to come to us," says Andreas Herting, Prof. Luzius's counterpart at the Lud-

wigshafen-based Palatinat Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "Instead, we've been going to the potential innovator-businesspeople, to engineering and information-science students at local institutes of higher education, and briefing them on how to get started in business. There has been a tremendous response."

All three chambers have seen rises in the number of seminars and courses organized under their auspices. "I think that's a very natural trend," says Volker Merx, managing director of Darmstadt's Chamber of Commerce, which is responsible for the southern portion of Hesse. "The technologies our companies employ are

getting more and more complex, as are the markets they operate in. It's a time of fundamental change in the Rhine-Neckar region, as in all of Europe. It's not surprising that companies have increasingly availed themselves of our information and services to come to grips with this transformation."

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MANNHEIM OFFERS ATTRACTIVE CONDITIONS

Mannheim's central geographic position has enabled it to become one of the most important economic centres in the European market. Mannheim is the economic and cultural heartland of the Rhine-Neckar-Triangle.

Investors today, attracted to the second largest city in Baden-Württemberg with a population of about 320,000, have Germany's largest airport almost at their front door. Excellent motorway connections mean that Rhine-Main international airport to the south of Frankfurt is no more than a little over half an hour's drive away. In fact, Mannheim offers attractive conditions as a location for investors and foreign companies.

The Mannheim Office of Economic Development acts as an open-minded and cooperative partner offering an extensive range of free services to any interested company:

- comprehensive, individual advice on location
- supply of contacts to official authorities, associations, chambers, consultants, business centres etc.
- arrangement of office premises
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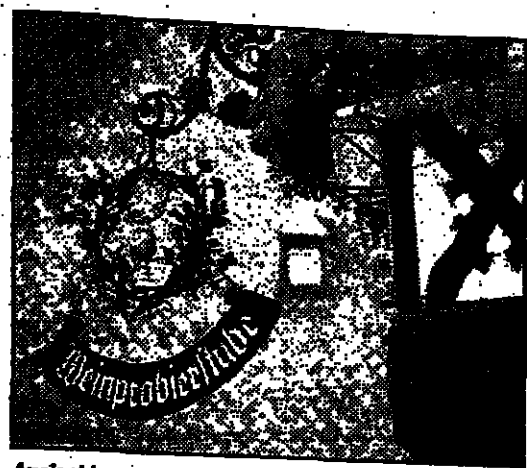
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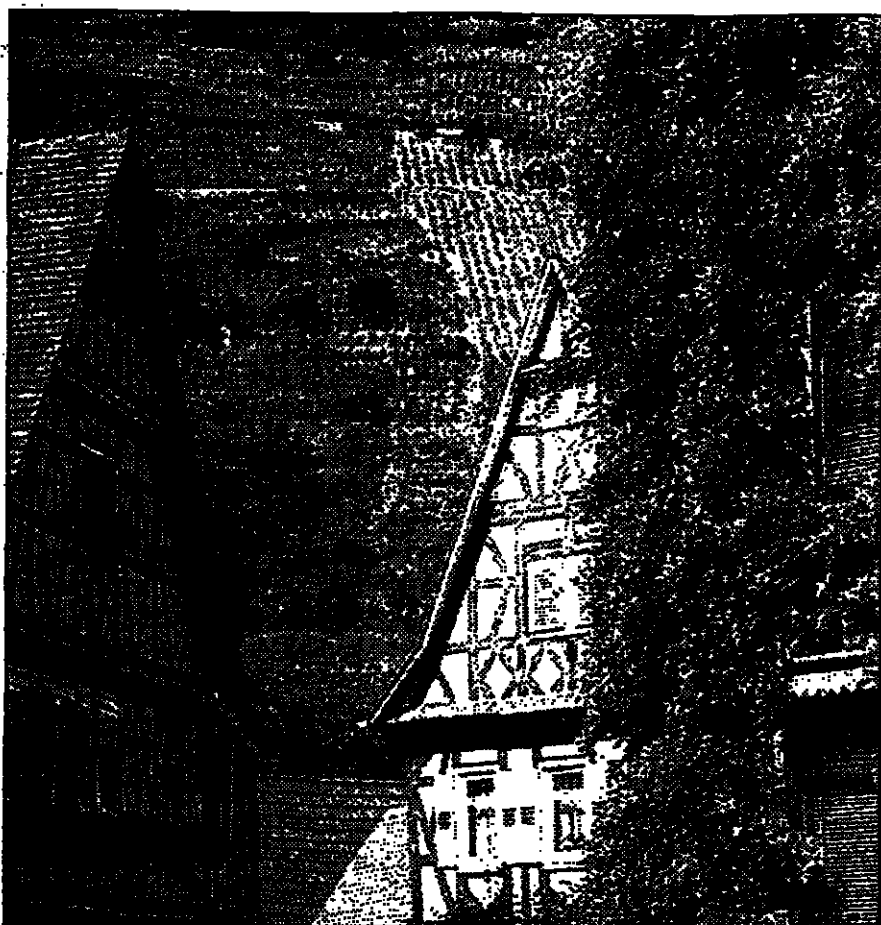
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THE RHINE-NECKAR TRIANGLE



Ancient towns and traditions: Above, the sign of a vital stop along the Mountain Route; right, half-timbered houses in Heppenheim.



FLYING TRIPS THROUGH A STATE ON THE MOVE

The Rhine-Neckar's attractions include austere cathedrals, canoeing, fine wines and fine arts.

Their Rhine-side locations made Speyer, at the south of the Rhine-Neckar region, and Worms, 38 kilometers (24 miles) to the north, two of Germany's first centers of commerce, learning and religion. Originally founded in the first century B.C. by the Romans, the cities fattened on the trade revival of the High Middle Ages. By the early 11th century, Speyer and Worms were the largest and most prosperous communities in Germany. Their wealth, which helped build mighty cathedrals, was partially produced by the cities' thriving Jewish communities.

The Jews were numerous and affluent enough to support Europe's largest assemblage of Talmudic scholars, among them Rabbi Salomon ben Isaac, known as "Rashi," one of the greatest scholars in the long history of Judaism. It was this community that led to Worms' being known as the "New Jerusalem."

Subsequent waves of

pogroms put an end to the "golden age of Jewish scholasticism." In 1521, Worms became indelibly associated with a new religious denomination, thanks to the arrival of one Martin Luther in the city. He was there to be interrogated by the Imperial Diet on matters of faith and heresy.

Today, Worms and Speyer draw millions of visitors each year. Besides the cathedrals, many of them take in Worms' Jewish museum and cemetery — the oldest remaining one in Europe — and the Jewish Bath in Speyer, in so doing paying tribute to an era whose reputation survived a millennium of persecution and destruction.

FOREST AND ORCHARD

After touring Heidelberg, many visitors head northeast, to the hills of the majestic Odenwald. This forest, which extends hundreds of kilometers from the city limits, is dotted with picturesque towns like Bensheim, Lindenfels and Neckarsteinach.

The peak time for these

visits is early April to early May, when the orchards lining the Bergstrasse, or Mountain Route, are in bloom. Spring generally arrives here three to four weeks before it does in the rest of Germany, thanks to the region's salubrious, even sultry, climate. Speyer, across the Rhine, can boast of Germany's highest average annual temperature.

Many culture-lovers head due west from Heidelberg to the castles of Schwetzingen — home to one of Germany's major music festivals — and Hambach, whose fame derives from another festive event. In 1832, 30,000 local democrats defied a ban on public gatherings and staged a *Singfest*, which ended at Hambach castle in a burst of repression.

The largest of the many castles and palaces in the region is in Mannheim. The city's Stadtschloss, or city palace, is the largest Baroque building in Germany. Grandiloquently beautiful, the palace houses the city's university, which was founded in 1907, or 521 years after

the university at Heidelberg, Germany's oldest.

Major changes were wrought to make the Rhine into one of the world's major waterways. The straightening of the riverbed to ease navigation had a beneficial side effect: the creation of a spread of lakes and marshes, much to the delight of boaters, bathers and bird-watchers.

WATER AND WINE

The Neckar, although also navigable for much of its length, has been spared much of the "taming" inflicted on the Rhine. Today, on any warm day, its roiling waters are thronged with kayakers and canoes. In the summer, squadrons of campers populate the river's banks.

Bad Dürkheim has the world's largest wine festival. Worms is famous for its Liebfraumilch, perhaps the best-known, if not actually the best, German wine. Many of Germany's top vintages are to be found in Deidesheim, which has restaurants to match. Although less

well-known, such small wine centers as Freinsheim, Forst and Heppenheim evoke the true charm of the Rhine-Neckar region's rural reaches. The villages are harmonious assemblages of stone and half-timbered houses, in the courtyards of which customers can sample and purchase the locally produced wines.

In addition to fine wine, these affluent communities cultivate the fine arts. Freinsheim, for instance, regularly stages concerts by performers of national and international standing. Many of them are regulars at the Ludwigschafener State Philharmonic of the Palatinate. Mannheim's Orchestra of the National Theater, Heidelberg's Civic Theater or the Chamber Orchestra of the Kurpfalz in Mannheim. This wealth of "Grade A" orchestras is matched by fine museums, including Mannheim's Kunsthalle, Ludwigschafener's Wilhelm Hack Museum, Heidelberg's Museum of Antiquity and 159 other collections.

FOR PEOPLE IN NEED, PEOPLE WHO KNOW

Local expertise has been transferred to Sarajevo as authorities seek to repair damage to Bosnia's infrastructure.

The second battle for Sarajevo began well before the fighting came to a halt. Even while bullets and shells were still exacting their dreadful daily toll, teams of experts were striving to provide the survivors with supplies of water, heat and power that were both safe and adequate.

LAST RESORTS

The existing supplies are often neither. In order to keep warm, many of the 300,000 remaining residents of Sarajevo have resorted to directly tapping into the city's natural gas pipelines. A number of these 70,000 joints have exploded, killing or injuring the inhabitants, and accounting for 30 deaths in the winter of 1994-95 alone.

Like everything else in the city, the surviving water purification plant has been handicapped by a lack of supplies — especially chlorine — and new equipment. The electricity supply, however, has gone from being nonexistent to fairly good.

THE GOOD FIGHT

This battle is being waged, under less dramatic conditions, in virtually every community in Central and Eastern Europe. Supply networks for heat, natural gas, electricity and water are nearly always chronically inefficient, environmentally damaging or deficit-inducing.

It is a battle the communities are waging with the help of international organizations — and with the expertise provided by such infrastructure development specialists as MVV Consulting, the international services arm of Mannheimer Versorgungs- und Verkehrsgesellschaft mbH (MVV).

Under the sponsorship of such organizations as the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and working closely with local authorities, MVV Consulting has also compiled feasibility studies of heating systems in Budapest, Zagreb and Shanghai. The company is also active in providing communities and entire countries with a full range of engineering and training services.

The MVV has conducted two emergency missions to Sarajevo. The first, in January, was designed to put an end to the gas line explosions and lack of heat in the city; the second, a month later, was to assure the supply of chlorine to the city's waterworks.

COMMONALITY

In providing its services, the MVV has a built-in advantage — and faces a major challenge.

The needs and parameters of infrastructure systems are the same in Mannheim or Warsaw or anywhere else in the world, says Roland Hartung, speaker of the MVV's board of directors. "Once you've maintained and further developed a district heating or water supply system in Mannheim, you pretty much know how to go about doing it elsewhere. Except that, in such areas as Eastern Europe, these services are provided on an emergency, preliminary or partial basis, in complex and interdependent economic and political situations — and often with limited budgets."

That statement holds true in Sarajevo. The World Bank has estimated capital needs for all of Bosnia at \$4.5 billion — a figure that strikes local authorities as far too low. Tarik Kuposovic, Sarajevo's mayor, estimates that repairs will cost \$5 billion for Sarajevo's infrastructure alone.

ENTERPRISING REALTORS BUILD UP NEW SPECIALTIES

State-of-the-art services and spin-offs characterize this resilient sector.

When business development planners speak of the high-end technical services sector — something they do often and fondly — they usually cite facility management, the great "job-creating machine of the mid-'90s," as the German trade weekly VDI Nachrichten recently called it.

The rapid growth of the facility management business has been fueled by two trends, explains Andreas Fay, managing partner of Mannheim's Fay group. The greater part of today's office buildings were constructed in the 1970s and '80s. As they age, these structures require frequent maintenance and constant supervision.

The same holds true for new buildings, but for a different reason. The "information revolution" started hitting the commercial building sector about a decade ago, creating a slew of "intelligent buildings." Their communication and information technology-based "nerves" also require technical monitoring, adjustment and upgrading.

SENSE AND SENSITIVITY

"These expensive electronic systems are just one reason facility management is such a delicate, high-stakes business,"

says Mr. Fay. The group's Fay Handels- und Verwaltungen-KG has recently entered this sector in force, and brings with it unique credentials. The Fay group knows many of the facilities it manages from the ground up.

The Fay group started out as a small-scale manufacturer of paints and lacquers. In 1961, it diversified into real estate brokerage, founding Fay Grundstücks-, Verwaltungen- & Finanzierungs KG. Since then, it has branched out into property development, consulting, construction and general contracting (handled by Fay Industrie- und Wohnbau KG) and facility management.

This diversification has been paralleled by geographic and sectoral expansion. In addition to its traditional core business of developing and brokering office buildings and space in the Rhine-Neckar area, the Fay group has also recently built a high-security data-processing center, located in Frankfurt and owned and operated by Germany's futures exchange and its central clearinghouse for shares and securities exchange. The group has also brokered villas in Nuremberg and Heidelberg, assembled industrial properties in Mannheim and provided property consulting services to a major Ger-

man bank with headquarters in Frankfurt.

This range of activity has not impressed the real estate and property development trade — which has seen its share of fast-developing, high-flying companies come and go — as much as the group's reputation for prudence.

TRIED AND TRUE

"We're great believers in securing high levels of predevelopment sales before starting building, and in using the other tried-and-true instruments of risk-minimizing," says Mr. Fay. "We're definitely not believers in growth for growth's sake. That's because conducting a high volume of business puts a company under a great deal of pressure to maintain that level, and that can lead to risky and ill-advised deals."

Another way the Fay group minimizes its risk is through flexibility — letting the individual project's needs and potential configure the group's role. "We never predefine our roles or insist on providing a certain range of services," says Mr. Fay. "Nor are we above passing on an interesting project if we feel it's not right for us — nor is it uncommon for us to redefine our role as a project unfolds. We're a group that can afford to be selective."

MANNHEIM: A MARKET IN ITS OWN RIGHT

Mannheim's real estate sector reflects its increasing importance as an anchor for the region as a whole.

For a city still following a plan laid down in 1606, Mannheim has a decidedly modern look. Friedrich IV, Elector of the Palatinate, decided to give a geometric precision to his garrison city, today's Mannheim. Following his lead, successors used Cartesian notation in naming the streets.

The result has been downtown Mannheim's grid of perfectly square blocks and addresses like "N1" for City Hall.

On the other hand, the site of the city's avant garde State Museum of Industry and Innovation (Museumstrasse), the twin high-rise Euro-City Center and Kaiserring Forum (Bahnhofsvorplatz), and the city's other new architectural landmarks have decidedly non-Mannheimian, non-modern addresses. The city's new complexes do, however, come with a very modern pitch: "Less than 40 minutes from downtown

Frankfurt, soon to be 20 minutes away from Frankfurt Airport," says Wolfgang Miedek, head of international investment outreach at the Amt für Wirtschaftsförderung, Mannheim's business development corporation, referring to the twin-tower complex right across the street from Mannheim's train station.

Recently modernized, the train station is only 38 minutes from downtown Frankfurt. A direct, time-saving rail link to Frankfurt Airport is now in the planning stages, to complement the existing express bus service.

NO ALTERNATIVE

Is Mannheim now the affordable, accessible alternative to downtown Frankfurt? Not all of those instrumental in modernizing Mannheim are happy with that description.

"The description is accurate, even appealing, as far as it goes," says An-

dreas Fay, managing partner of the Fay group of companies. "But it does a bit of an injustice to Mannheim and the Rhine-Neckar region as a whole. The implication behind the description — that the Rhine-Neckar region is an appendage of the Rhine-Main region — is in no way correct. The Rhine-Neckar has a very large cluster of innovative, industrial, technical and financial service companies. This cluster is large enough to form a center of economic gravity in its own right."

His group's position in the Rhine-Neckar region's real estate and property development markets gives added weight to Mr. Fay's comments.

In 1995, the group brokered two-thirds of all office space rented in Mannheim, well above its historic 50 percent share. Much of the city's downtown, and such emerging commercial areas as its East City and Neckarau, have been largely devel-

oped and marketed by the group.

Is modern Mannheim's slew of modernistic office buildings and their glassed-in, plant-bedecked atriums a realization of the Fay group's vision of contemporary urban life? "That question greatly overestimates our influence and greatly underestimates the strength of market forces," says Mr. Fay with a smile. "In all our various roles — property developer, consultant, service provider or realtor — and in all of the various regions we're active in, what we build, sell or manage is determined by the market. The market is increasingly going in for contemporary-styled, high-amenity structures."

As he explains, the ongoing shift into the services sector and the consolidation of disparate activities in major office centers have led to an influx of companies seeking office space within the Rhine-Neckar's urban

core: Mannheim, Heidelberg and Ludwigschafen.

"For easily understandable reasons — prestige and personnel motivation — companies increasingly strive to own and occupy premises of high and secure attractiveness," says Mr. Fay. "At the same time, the Rhine-Neckar business and financial communities have amassed and administer a large pool of capital, which they tend to invest in high-value, locally situated projects. Nor would I restrict that question to Mannheim. The Fay group is, after all, now active everywhere from Frankfurt to Moscow. One of our highest-profile developments, for instance, is located in Düsseldorf."

As for commendation from Fay's peers, the East-West House of Business and Industry, which the company developed, finished second in the Best Business Center category at MIPIM's 1995 awards.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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Fax: (49 6232) 77 20 2

Mannheimer Kongress- und Touristik GmbH
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Giulini Chemie GmbH
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Amt für Wirtschaftsförderung Mannheim
Office of Economic Development
City of Mannheim
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Knicks Turn Up Heat To Burn Bulls, 104-72

By Mike Wise
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The intensity and passion of the Knicks' veterans returned Sunday just as the intensity and passion in Madison Square Garden returned. Patrick Ewing put his head down, driving and dunking harder than he has in the last two months. Derek Harper hit much more net than iron. And the awesome Chicago Bulls fell with an audible thud.

Madison Square Garden rumbled with noise again, as the Knicks continued their quixotic season by running Michael Jordan and his traveling circus off the court with a resounding 104-72 victory.

The Knicks played an inspiring evening of basketball from another era.

"That's how I always remember the Knicks," said Willie Anderson, the reserve swingman who joined the team last month during its demise. "Wow. When they want to turn up the heat, they turn up the heat."

They were awake now, a little more than 48 hours after they fired their coach, Don Nelson, and lost to the 76ers, the worst team in the league. Jeff Van Gundy, the 34-year-old career assistant who was handed the reins of the team on Friday in Philadelphia, could not have drawn up a more perfect game for his first career victory.

By constantly sending fresh bodies at Jordan and getting the Knicks to believe in the rewards of defense and rebounding, Van Gundy became only the seventh coach to beat Chicago (54-7) this season.

Afterward, Harper retrieved the game ball from the filmmaker Spike Lee at court-side and presented it to Van Gundy.

Essentially, the team that Dennis Rodman called "yellow" on Jan. 23 after a lopsided Chicago victory used hues of black and blue to get its point across to the Bulls. Harper, whose 16-point detonation in the third quarter quelled the only serious Bulls rally, believes he knows the reason for the change in attitude.

"We had our hardest practice of the year yesterday, and I think it carried over into today's game," said Harper, who along with many of the team's veterans was critical of Nelson's laid-back workouts.

Harper ignited his teammates with his torrid shooting after Chicago went up 54-51 early in the third quarter. Harper scored 11 points in an 18-4 Knicks run. He ended the period with two long-range jumpers, bringing the Garden to its feet as the Knicks took a lead of 76-60.

In the fourth quarter, Charlie Ward fired away to the crowd's delight and Jordan, who finished with 32 points, sat on the bench resting for another day.

Harper finished with 23 points and six assists. Ewing had 26 points and 14 rebounds. The Knicks won for only the fifth time in the last 15 games. They snapped the Bulls' winning streak at six games. Chicago had not lost since Feb. 23 against Miami.



Chicago's Dennis Rodman pushing his way past Anthony Mason of the Knicks.

Mom Ejects Player Rider Ignores Ref But Not Family

The Associated Press

Isaiah Rider's mom had to shoo him off the court Sunday. Rider was ejected from the Utah Jazz-Minnesota Timberwolves game by referee Ken Mauer with 1:43 left in the first half but refused to leave the court.

As teammate Doug West tried to coax him to the exit, Rider's mother, who was sitting

Oakland, Mitch Richmond benched in a three-pointer from the right side with two-tenths of a second left to give Sacramento just its second victory in 14 games.

Trail Blazers 113, Pacers 108 At Indianapolis, Clifford Robinson capped a 37-point performance by scoring all five points of the second overtime. Robinson, a 62.5 percent free-throw shooter, was 13-for-13 from the line, including two that clinched the victory with 2.7 seconds left.

Nets 95, Grizzlies 89 At Vancouver, Hakim Olajuwon scored 42 points — his 28th career 40-point game — and grabbed 18 rebounds as Houston sent the Grizzlies to their 11th consecutive loss.

Houston's coach, Rudy Tomjanovich, got his 217th victory, setting a team record with one more than Bill Fitch.

Nets 95, Nuggets 88 At Denver, Armon Gilliam and Chris Childs each scored 24 points and the Nets won on the Nuggets' home court for only the second time in 23 games since both teams jumped from the ABA to the NBA.

Bullets 99, Hawks 91 At Landover, Maryland, George Murren scored 27 points and Washington won for the fourth time in five games to stay two games behind Charlotte for the eighth and final playoff berth in the East.

In games reported in late editions Monday: The Orlando Magic beat the Phoenix Suns, 122-106, for their 35th straight home win, a new NBA record.

The Los Angeles Clippers beat the Philadelphia 76ers, 104-102, the Miami Heat beat the Cleveland Cavaliers, 88-81, and the Boston Celtics beat the Milwaukee Bucks, 110-103.

Jackson Courts N. Y.

By Clifton Brown
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Even a team with a 54-7 record can have problems, and the Chicago Bulls have a few.

Phil Jackson wants a new contract, and negotiations with management are at an impasse. So Jackson has done the smart thing, keeping his options open in case the Knicks or another team want to pursue him when the season ends.

If Jackson comes to the Knicks next season, could Jackson lure Michael Jordan, a free agent after the season, to New York as well?

After the Knicks whipped the Bulls, Jordan found himself answering delicate questions about his coach. Minutes before, Jackson abruptly left the post-game news conference, making only a short statement about the game.

"I think we've linked our destinies together," Jordan said. "I think it would be foolish of him not to evaluate his options. I think we both want to be in Chicago. But you have to evaluate your options."

"I've said all along that my decision to play in Chicago strictly relies upon Phil. I value his leadership, the continuity that he and I have. If he's not asked to be back in Chicago, and if things don't work out, then I have to evaluate my situation as well."

Tough Seeding for the NCAA

Last-Minute Upsets Make Men's Selections Tough

By J. A. Adande
Washington Post Service

The difficult task of selecting and seeding the NCAA men's tournament became even tougher Sunday.

Upsets in the Southeastern Conference tournament final, where Mississippi State blasted top-ranked Kentucky, and the Big Eight tournament, where Iowa State knocked off fifth-ranked Kansas, had the NCAA making adjustments till the last minute.

The results: Massachusetts, Kentucky, Connecticut and Purdue received No. 1 seeds in the 64-team field, which automatically includes 30 conference champions and leaves 34 at-large bids available. The committee found at-large spots for Maryland, Santa Clara, Wisconsin-Green Bay and Texas, but left out Jerry Tarkanian's Fresno State, Providence, Minnesota, Tulane and Oklahoma State — a Final Four team last season.

Now that the paperwork's over, the guessing can begin.

Several upsets in the smaller conferences' tournaments — Santa Clara lost in the West Coast Conference, Wisconsin-Green Bay lost in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference and Bradley was bumped out of the Missouri Valley Conference, for example — created unexpected at-large candidates and pitted them against non-champions of the larger conferences.

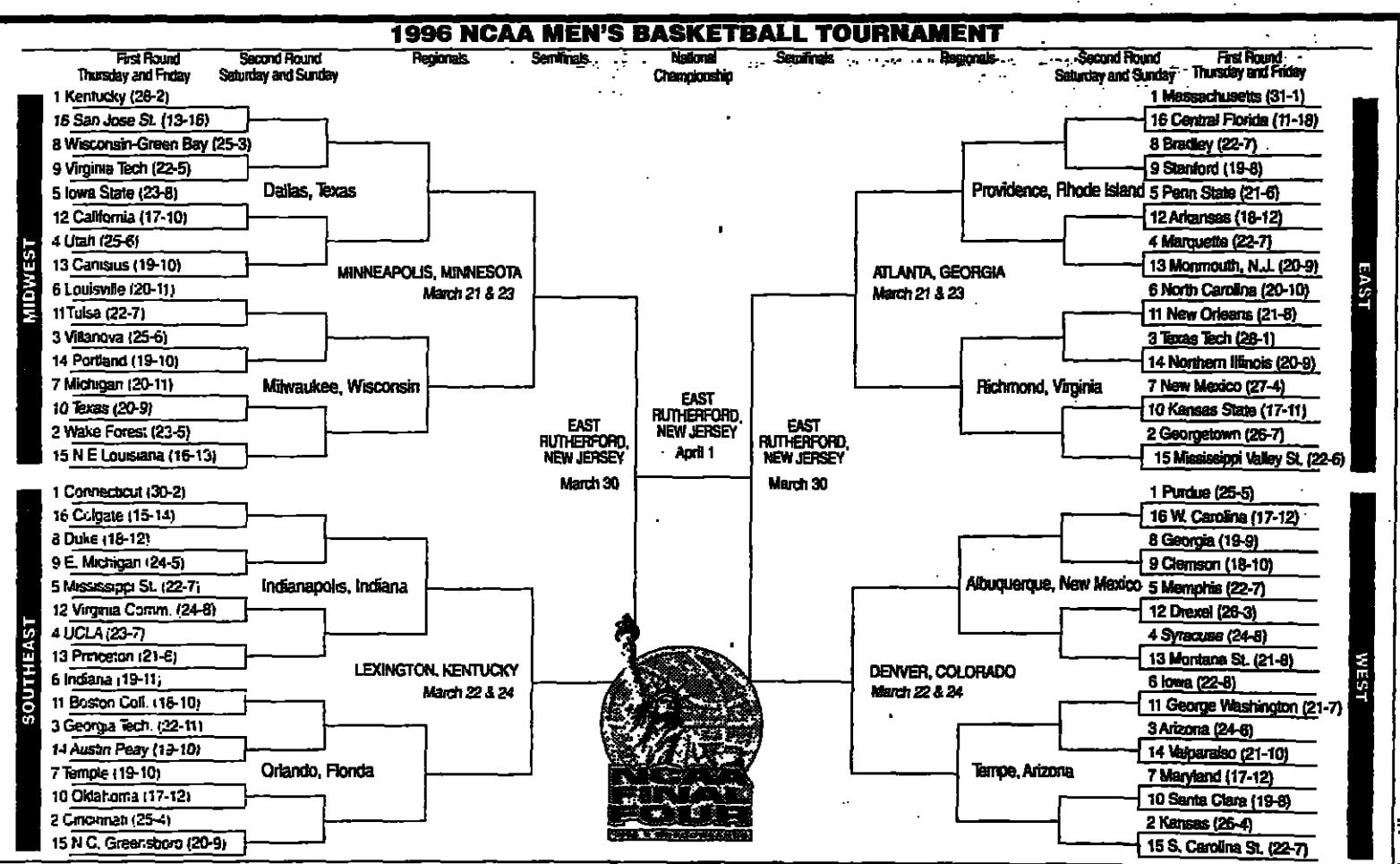
The big conferences didn't suffer. The Atlantic Coast Conference has six schools in the tournament: Wake Forest, Georgia Tech, North Carolina, Duke, Maryland and Clemson. The Big Ten has five — Purdue, Penn State, Iowa, Michigan, Indiana — and the Big East five — Connecticut, Georgetown, Villanova, Syracuse and Boston College.

Conference USA, in its first year of existence, was not eligible for an automatic bid but still has four schools in the tournament: Louisville, Cincinnati, Memphis, and Marquette. Tulane (18-9) failed. UCLA won the Pacific-10

with a record of 16-2 (23-7 overall), but runner-up Arizona (24-6, 13-5) got a higher seed and a chance to stay in its home West region — and even home state. The Wildcats will play in Tempe, Arizona, as the No. 3 seed against No. 14 Valparaiso. UCLA will be the No. 4 seed in the Southeast and play No. 13 Princeton in Indianapolis.

Purdue won the lesser-regarded Big Ten conference for the third year in a row, yet gained the No. 1 seed in the West Region, beating out Cincinnati and Kansas because it had nine victories against other NCAA teams while Kansas had eight and Cincinnati six. Kentucky's loss did not cost it a top seed in the Midwest, but did knock the Wildcats out of the mythical No. 1 overall seed in the tournament. East No. 1 seed Massachusetts has the privilege of playing No. 16 Central Florida, whose 11-18 record is the worst of any team to make the tournament.

Kentucky faces San Jose State (13-16) in Dallas. Kentucky's loss did not cost it a top seed in the Midwest, but did knock the Wildcats out of the mythical No. 1 overall seed in the tournament. East No. 1 seed Massachusetts has the privilege of playing No. 16 Central Florida, whose 11-18 record is the worst of any team to make the tournament.



'Easy Money' Opens Door to Hard Times in Greece for a Former NBA Star

International Herald Tribune

ATHENS — He figured the \$7 million would be easy money, that he would be like royalty here, and every game an exhibition.

And it would be warm all year round (whereas, it snowed last week). And his wife would be happy (she isn't). And he would be free to live the semiretired life (he has lost 25 pounds). And, if nothing else came true, at the very least he would be able to redeem the miserable conclusion to his National Basketball Association career because the teams for which he has played have always been built around him, in high school and college and in the strongest league in the world — so, for sure, Dominique Wilkins would be able to call all the shots in Greece.

He hasn't. In January he finally complained about it. "I had reached my frustration point," he said Thursday, a few hours before leading Panathinaikos of Athens to within three victories of its first European Championship. "I said, 'I'm tired of being treated like crap. I'm not going to be treated like that anymore.'"

He was fined more than \$40,000 and told to keep his mouth shut. "I find now that the stars of the NBA are like the stars of Hollywood," said the club president, Paul Giannakopoulos, a pharmaceuticals industrialist who is paying from his own pocket at least half of Wilkins' record \$5.5 million salary.

European basketball has never been graced by anyone as famous, stylish or talented as the 6-foot-8 (2.04-meter) Wilkins, who is 36.

The No. 8 NBA scorer — with more career points than Michael Jordan, Larry Bird or Magic Johnson — he had been unceremoniously

dumped in a 1994 trade by his team of 11 seasons, the Atlanta Hawks, to the NBA laughingstock Los Angeles Clippers. Last season he felt unappreciated by the Boston Celtics.

So, to the amazement of everyone but his peers, he accepted the two-year deal in Greece, including a raise close to \$2 million, plus a four-story, marble villa of his choosing, a maid, two cars, and payment of his Greek taxes.

Julius Erving, Charles Barkley, Joe Dumars — they all told me I was doing the right thing," said Wilkins; indeed, Barkley said last week he might soon be playing in Europe. "There must have been 20 or 30 players at the Mike Tyson fight in August, and not one guy questioned why I was doing it."

They might have a change of thought once he has reported back. Last month, according to people around the NBA, Wilkins was trying to buy his way out of the contract. He wouldn't confirm it but didn't deny it. "Anything's possible," he said. "I could just go home and they wouldn't pay me, if that's what I wanted. But I'm not thinking about those things right now."

He realized as soon as he landed here last September that the season was going to be nothing like a semiretirement. Five thousand fans were waiting for him at the airport, and video of the scene betrays his fright — as he was jostled along through the pink smoke (from the flares), past the TV cameras on high platforms that were broadcasting live to two stations, and in among the motorcade of at least 50 police vehicles. The cops on motorcycles did wheelies for him.

His first practice drew 13,000 spectators. "I haven't had any problems with the fans," Wilkins said. "One game, I was a little under the weather, and they were cheering for me to come in at the end just so I wouldn't leave

Vantage Point IAN THOMSEN

without any points. That, to me, was the greatest thing — I'd never experienced anything like that before.

He thought they didn't want him leaving their house without a gift, a few points to take home — but it was more complicated than that. It is probably true that Wilkins was driven to Europe because he hasn't won an NBA championship. Had he ever led the Hawks that far, he might have been honored with a place on the first U.S. Dream Team (rather than a backup role with the artless Dream Team II at the World Championships in Toronto in 1994), other title contenders would have sought him two years ago, and respect never would have been an issue.

HIS NEW FANS are the most rabid basketball supporters in the world, and probably the most insecure, for no Greek club has ever won the European Championship. Their joint failure to earn the biggest prize is the only common ground Wilkins shares with his new club. Such pressures married them and probably will divorce them.

Last month, Wilkins found himself winning a crucial European game in Panathinaikos' empty 18,000-seat Olympic Stadium. The club had been punished because its supporters had thrown coins at a visiting team.

"When we were told we would have to play a game without our fans, I started thinking that night in bed that it was not such a bad thing," Giannakopoulos said. "It was a bad punishment because we would lose a lot of money — about \$250,000 — but it was good because there would be no fans inside to put so much pressure on the

players. Because the game was so important, I decided not to appeal."

The pressure is borne by the coaches. Some Greek clubs will go through three coaches a season. Last summer Giannakopoulos hired Bozidar Maljkovic, a Serb who might be the best coach in Europe, with three European championships to support his methods of patience and choking defense.

Giannakopoulos said he gave the coach three days to decide whether he wanted Wilkins, (alias, "the Human Highlight Film"), who never in his life has wanted to walk the ball up the court. Maljkovic couldn't veto. But he told friends and journalists that he didn't want Wilkins; though he denies thinking such things, now that his relationship with Wilkins seems to be thawing.

The best European coaches exercise the control of college coaches in America. Wilkins, one of the best American players, left college 14 years ago. Maljkovic has played him mostly on the perimeter, even though he became an NBA All-Star by knifing inside. He was benched for missing his first three or four shots. He is the best free-throw shooter in the country, but lesser teammates were chosen to shoot technical fouls. He was criticized for his defense, he said, then assigned to guard the best offensive players.

"That was the kind of psychology they used to try to make me play better," he said sarcastically. "I would tell them, look, I've played some of the best basketball that's ever been played, against the best who've ever played — but they don't want to hear what you have to say. They don't listen to the players."

Their differences were inflamed when Wilkins suffered a terrible month late last year. His mother needed surgery, so he flew home to the United States for 10 days to be with her. Shortly after he

returned, his father fell into a diabetic coma. Wilkins jetted overseas for three days, then rushed back to Madrid hours before an important game. Maljkovic wouldn't let him play.

"I'm still bitter about that," Wilkins said. "Sometimes when I'm by myself, it eats at me, and I get a little choked up. If I wasn't going to play, then why did I have to rush back? My father died a few days later. If I could have stayed with him, I don't know, but maybe it could have made a difference."

He said he didn't blame Maljkovic: "I just put the blame on everybody." Two weeks later, his grandmother died.

WILKINS has become more prolific, although he could not dominate the 70-67 victory in the quarterfinals Thursday even when it was there for the taking. He still looks and plays young, especially in this lesser league. "I like his character," said the club president, 17,000 fans sang for Dominique all night as they have all season; but the team didn't look comfortable around him. Nonetheless, with one victory in the two legs at Benetton Treviso of Italy on Tuesday or Thursday, Panathinaikos will stagger to its third successive Final Four, and Wilkins will go home at last. The Final Four will be in Paris in April. Wilkins was born there, which accounts for his first name. He spent four years in Paris until the U.S. military transferred his father.

So he might yet win his first championship, for a coach who didn't want him, for fans who love him more than any in America, and in his hometown, where he can't speak the language.

SPORTS

WORLD ROUNDUP

Strikers in All Positions

Soccer Italy's top players will strike Sunday, bringing Serie A to a halt. Nicola Bosisio, a spokesman for the Italian players' association, confirmed Monday that the strike would go ahead.

The 1996 World Cup began with Dominica and Antigua tying 3-3 in front of 5,000 fans in the first qualifying match. (Reuters)

Chris Miller Released

Football Quarterback Chris Miller, who has been plagued by concussions, failed a physical and was released by the St. Louis Rams on Monday.

Miami signed receiver Fred Barnett, who played for Philadelphia last season, to a five-year, \$8.5 million contract, and Dallas signed linebacker Fred Strickland, formerly of Green Bay, to a two-year, \$1.15 million contract. (AP)

Murdoch Rebels Banned

Rugby League The Australian Federal Court banned Rupert Murdoch's rebel league from competing in Australia until the year 2000, but Murdoch's News Ltd. said it would fight the decision.

"Two premiership competitions are not sustainable," Judge James Burchett said in a ruling in Sydney. (Reuters)

Rookie Takes Honda

GOLF Rookie Tim Herron shot a three-under-par 69 in the rain for a four-stroke victory in the PGA Honda Classic in Coral Springs, Florida. (AP)

Lara's Century Knocks Out South Africans

WORLD CUP CRICKET

A fluent century from Brian Lara and some mesmerizing spin bowling inspired the West Indies to a 19-run victory over South Africa in their World Cup quarter-final in Karachi Monday.

The West Indies scored 264 runs for eight wickets in their 50 overs and dismissed South Africa for 245 with three balls remaining.

The West Indies will play Australia, which beat New Zealand in Madras, in a semifinal in Mohali, India, Thursday.

Lara, finally making an impact at the World Cup, stroked 111 while off-spinner Roger Harper took four wickets, three of them in one over, and Jimmy Adams captured three with his left-arm spin.

Lara, with makeshift opener Shivnarine Chanderpaul proving an effective ally, scored his runs off 94 balls, including five boundaries in one over against off-spinner Pat Symcox.

Chanderpaul made 56 off 93 balls in a mature innings after he was promoted to replace regular opener Sherwin Campbell, dropped for the match.

The West Indies looked set for a score of 300 before they were checked after the departure of Lara and Chanderpaul and the dismissal of Richardson for 10.

Brian McMillan was the best of South Africa's bowlers. He took two wickets for 37 runs in his 10 overs.

South Africa made an unlucky start to its innings when Gary Kirsten dislodged the bats as he set off for a run and was out for three.

Andrew Hudson and Daryll Cullinan put on 97 for the second wicket, both scoring half-centuries, but began to lose touch with the run rate as Adams and Harper pinned them back.

Chris Harris of New Zealand, who made 130 runs, hitting a six as Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy watched.

Adams removed both batsmen, first Hudson for 54 and then Cullinan for 69 — each caught on the boundary.

Adams finished with three for 52, but it was Harper who turned the tide in the 41st over. He had Jonty Rhodes caught on the cover boundary with his first ball and then trapped McMillan leg before wicket with the next delivery. Three balls later he added wicketkeeper Steve Puffham with a brilliant caught and bowled.

Symcox hit a quick 24 but he, too, was caught in the deep, and with his dismissal went their hopes.

The defeat ended a run of 10 successive limited-overs international wins by South Africa, one short of the record set by West Indies in the mid-1980s.

Mark Waugh continued his World Cup run spree with his third century of the tournament to power favorites Australia to victory over New Zealand by six wickets in their quarter-final in Madras.

Waugh, flourishing in his role as an opener, struck 110 in 112 balls to follow hundreds in the group games against Kenya and India.

With twin brother Steve Waugh making 59 not out, Australia moved efficiently to their target, reaching 289 with 13 balls to spare after New Zealand had scored 286 in its 50 overs.

New Zealand's score was built on a wonderful performance by Chris Harris, who hammered 130. The New Zealanders' innings was transformed from 44 runs to a fourth wicket partnership of 168 in 27 overs between captain Lee Germon and Harris. Germon made 89 off 97 deliveries, hitting one six and nine fours. Harris faced 124 balls and hit four sixes and 12 fours.

Devils Work Overtime Magic Again

The Associated Press

The New Jersey Devils thrive in overtime. With a 3-2 victory at Philadelphia on Sunday night they improved to 6-0-10 in overtime this season. Steve Thomas, who scored the winner in OT against Pittsburgh on Saturday, did it again against the Flyers.

New Jersey had a power-play when Kellie Samuelsson was whistled for high sticking with 2:33 remaining in overtime. Phil Housley, who assisted on all three Devils goals, just barely kept the puck

NHL ROUNDOUP

in at the point and fired a slap shot that was stopped by goalie Garth Snow. But Thomas was in front for the rebound.

Red Wings 5, Jets 2 Steve Yzerman scored twice and assisted on another goal as Detroit set a team record of 104 points, one more than in 1992-93. And the Red Wings got their 23rd road win, also a team record.

Mighty Ducks 3, Kings 2 At Anaheim, Paul Kariya scored his second goal of the game with 4:25 left in the third period to win it. It was Kariya's 40th goal, his seventh game-winner.

Braves 4, Panthers 1 At Miami, Adam Oates and Todd Elik each had a goal and an assist to help the Braves earn their third consecutive victory. The stumping Panthers have lost four in a row.

Sharks 5, Sabres 4 Host San Jose scored five times in the third period, including Ray Shero's game-winner. The teams combined for six goals in the first 11:05 of the period.

In a game reported in later editions Monday, The Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Washington Capitals 1-0.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL	
NBA STANDINGS	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Team	Pct.
Orlando	.47
New York	.45
Atlanta	.43
Washington	.42
New Jersey	.41
Boston	.40
Philadelphia	.39
CENTRAL CONFERENCE	
Team	Pct.
Chicago	.48
Indiana	.47
San Antonio	.46
Cleveland	.45
Charlotte	.44
Detroit	.43
Memphis	.42
Milwaukee	.41
Toronto	.40
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Team	Pct.
Utah	.49
San Antonio	.48
Houston	.47
Denver	.46
Dallas	.45
Minnesota	.44
Vancouver	.43
PACIFIC CONFERENCE	
Team	Pct.
Seattle	.48
L.A. Lakers	.47
Phoenix	.46
Golden State	.45
Portland	.44
Sacramento	.43
L.A. Clippers	.42
NHL STANDINGS	
Team	Pct.
Chicago	.48
New York	.47
San Jose	.46
Edmonton	.45
Calgary	.44
Los Angeles	.43
Phoenix	.42
San Jose	.41
Los Angeles	.40
Phoenix	.39
San Jose	.38
Los Angeles	.37
Phoenix	.36
San Jose	.35
Los Angeles	.34
Phoenix	.33
San Jose	.32
Los Angeles	.31
Phoenix	.30
San Jose	.29
Los Angeles	.28
Phoenix	.27
San Jose	.26
Los Angeles	.25
Phoenix	.24
San Jose	.23
Los Angeles	.22
Phoenix	.21
San Jose	.20
Los Angeles	.19
Phoenix	.18
San Jose	.17
Los Angeles	.16
Phoenix	.15
San Jose	.14
Los Angeles	.13
Phoenix	.12
San Jose	.11
Los Angeles	.10
Phoenix	.09
San Jose	.08
Los Angeles	.07
Phoenix	.06
San Jose	.05
Los Angeles	.04
Phoenix	.03
San Jose	.02
Los Angeles	.01
Phoenix	.00

HOCKEY	
NHL STANDINGS	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Team	Pct.
Chicago	.48
New York	.47
San Jose	.46
Edmonton	.45
Calgary	.44
Los Angeles	.43
Phoenix	.42
San Jose	.41
Los Angeles	.40
Phoenix	.39
San Jose	.38
Los Angeles	.37
Phoenix	.36
San Jose	.35
Los Angeles	.34
Phoenix	.33
San Jose	.32
Los Angeles	.31
Phoenix	.30
San Jose	.29
Los Angeles	.28
Phoenix	.27
San Jose	.26
Los Angeles	.25
Phoenix	.24
San Jose	.23
Los Angeles	.22
Phoenix	.21
San Jose	.20
Los Angeles	.19
Phoenix	.18
San Jose	.17
Los Angeles	.16
Phoenix	.15
San Jose	.14
Los Angeles	.13
Phoenix	.12
San Jose	.11
Los Angeles	.10
Phoenix	.09
San Jose	.08
Los Angeles	.07
Phoenix	.06
San Jose	.05
Los Angeles	.04
Phoenix	.03
San Jose	.02
Los Angeles	.01
Phoenix	.00

SOCCER	
ITALIAN FIRST DIVISION	
Team	Pct.
AC Milan	.48
Inter Milan	.47
Juventus	.46
AS Roma	.45
Lazio	.44
Fiorentina	.43
Parma	.42
Atalanta	.41
Reggina	.40
Genoa	.39
Verona	.38
Como	.37
Parma	.36
Atalanta	.35
Reggina	.34
Genoa	.33
Verona	.32
Como	.31
Parma	.30
Atalanta	.29
Reggina	.28
Genoa	.27
Verona	.26
Como	.25
Parma	.24
Atalanta	.23
Reggina	.22
Genoa	.21
Verona	.20
Como	.19
Parma	.18
Atalanta	.17
Reggina	.16
Genoa	.15
Verona	.14
Como	.13
Parma	.12
Atalanta	.11
Reggina	.10
Genoa	.09
Verona	.08
Como	.07
Parma	.06
Atalanta	.05
Reggina	.04
Genoa	.03
Verona	.02
Como	.01
Parma	.00

DOONESBURY

WIZARD OF ID

CALVIN AND HOBBES

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

PEANUTS

GARFIELD

THE FAR SIDE

JUMBLE

[illegible]